DOCUMENTS,

Accompanying the Presidents message,
(CONTINUED.)

THE CONVENTION OF FLOLIDA.

To his excellency the governor of the Mississippi Territory.

SIR—We, the delegates of the people of this state, have the honor to enclose to you an official copy of their act of independence, requesting that it may be forthwith transmitted by you to the president of the United States, with the expression of their most confident and ardent hope, that it may accord with the policy of the government, as it does with the safety and happiness of the people of the United States to take the present government and people of this state under their immediate and special protection as an integral and inalienable portion of the United States.

The convention and their constituents of Florida, rest in the firm persuasion, that the blood which flows in their veins will remind the government and the people of the United States, that they are their children, that they have been acknowledged as such, by the most solemn acts of the congress of the United States; and, that so long as independence and the rights of man shall be maintained and cherished by the American union, the good people of this state cannot, nor will not, be abandoned or exposed to the invasion, violence or force of any foreign or domestic foe.

The convention beg you to receive for yourself, sir, and to assure the president of their high respect and consideration. By order of the convention.

(Signed) JOHN RHEA, Prest.

Baton Rouge, Sept. 26, 1810.

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE OF WEST FLORIDA.

IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED,

A DECLARATION.

It is known to the world with how much fidelity the good people of this territory have professed and maintained allegiance to their legitimate sovereign, while any hope remained of receiving from him protection for their property and lives.

Without making any unnecessary innovation in the established principles of the government, we had voluntarily adopted certain regulations in concert with our First Magistrate for the express purposes of preserving this territory, and shewing our attachment to the government which had heretofore protected us. This compact, which was entered into with good faith on our part, will forever remain an honorable testimony of our upright intentions and inviolable fidelity to our king and parent country, while so much as a shadow of legitimate authority remained to be exercised over us. We sought only a speedy remedy for such evils as seemed to endanger our existence and prosperity; and were encouraged by our Governor with solemn promises of assistance and co-operation. But those measures which were intended for our preservation he has endeavored to pervert into an engine of destruction, by encouraging, in the most perfidious manner, the violation of ordinances, sanctioned and established by himself as the law of the land.

Being thus left without any hope of protection from the mother country—betrayed by a magistrate whose duty it was to have provided for the safety and tranquillity of the people and government committed to his charge, and exposed to all the evils of a state of anarchy, which we have so long endeavored to avert; it becomes our duty to provide for our own security as a free and independent state, absolved from all allegiance to a government which no longer protects us.

We, therefore, the representatives aforesaid, appealing to the Supreme Ruler of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do solemnly publish and declare the several districts composing this Territory of West Florida to be a FREE AND INDEPENDENT STATE—and that they have a right to institute for themselves such form of government as they may think conducive to their safety and happiness—To form treaties—To establish commerce to provide for their common defence—and do all acts which may of right be done by a sovereign and independent nation. At the same time declaring all acts within the said Territory of West Florida, after this date, by any tribunal or authorities not deriving their powers from the people agreeably to the provisions established by this convention, to be null and void—and calling upon all foreign nations to respect this our declaration, acknowledging our independence, and giving us such aid as may be consistent with the laws and usages of nations.

This declaration made in convention at the Town of Baton Rouge, on the twenty-sixth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ten. We the representatives, in the name aforesaid, and on behalf of our constituents do hereby solemnly pledge ourselves to support with our lives and fortunes.

By order of the Convention.

(Signed) JOHN RHEA, *President.*

(Signed) AND. STEELE, *Secretary.*

MR. SMITH TO GOVERNOR HOLMES.

Department of State, November 15, 1810.

SIR,

I have received your letter of the 17th of October, enclosing the memorial of the convention of West Florida. To repress the unreasonable expectations therein indicated, in relation to the vacant land in that territory, it is deemed proper to lose no time in communicating to you and to governor Claiborne the sentiments of the president on the subject.

The right of the United States to the territory of West Florida, as far as the river Perdido, was fairly acquired by purchase, and has been formally ratified by treaty. The delivery of possession has indeed, been deferred, and the procrastination has been heretofore acquiesced in by this government from a hope, patiently indulged, that amicable negociation would accomplish the equitable purpose of the United States. But this delay, which proceeded only from the forbearance of the United States to enforce a legitimate and well known claim, could not impair the legality of their title, nor could any change in the internal state of things, without their sanction, however brought about, vary their right.—It remains, of course, as perfect as it was before the interposition of the convention. And the people of West Florida must not for a moment be misled by the expectation that the United States will surrender for their exclusive benefit what has been purchased with the treasure and for the benefit of the whole. The vacant land of this territory, thrown into common stock with the other vacant land of the Union, will be a property in common for the national uses of all the people of the U. States. The community of interest upon which this government invariably acts, the liberal policy which it has uniformly displayed towards the people of the territories (a part of which has ever been a just regard to honest settlers) will, nevertheless, be a sufficient pledge to the inhabitants of West Florida, for the early and continued attention of the federal legislature to their situation and their wants.

These observations will apprize you, sir, of the sentiments of the president, as to the propositions in the memorial in relation to the vacant land in West Florida, and will enable you to make, when necessary and proper, suitable explanations to the people of that territory. You will, however, keep in mind that the president cannot recognize in the convention of West Florida any independent authority whatever to propose or to form a compact with the U. States. I am sir, with the highest respect, your obedient servant.

(Signed) R. SMITH.

His Excellency DAVID HOLMES,
Governor of Mississippi.

Extract of a letter from Mr. Smith, Secretary of State, to Mr. Pinkney, Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at London, dated Department of State, January 20th, 1810.

"In my letter to you of the 11th November, 1809, you were authorised to assure the British government, that the United States sincerely retained the desire, which they have constantly professed, to facilitate a friendly accommodation of all the existing differences between the two countries, and that nothing would be more agreeable to them than to find the successor of Mr. Jackson invested with all the authorities necessary for the accomplishing of so desirable an event, and moreover, that if the attainment of this object, through your agency, should be considered more expeditious or otherwise preferable, it would be a course entirely satisfactory to the United States.

I am now charged by the President to transmit to you the enclosed letter* authorizing you to resume the negociations with the British government, under the full power that had been given severally and jointly to you and Mr. Monroe: And in your discussions therein you will be regulated by the instructions heretofore given to Mr. Monroe and yourself. It is, however, not intended, that you should commence this negociation until the requisite satisfaction shall have been made in the affair of the Chesapeake: And, in the adjustment of this case, you will be guided by the instructions which you have heretofore received from this department in relation to it.

It is, moreover, desirable, that preparatory to a treaty upon all the points of difference between the two countries, an arrangement should be made for the revocation of the orders in council. As it is uncertain what may be the ultimate measures of Congress at the present session, it cannot be expected that the President can, at this time, state the precise condition to be annexed to a repeal of the orders in council: But in general you may assure the British government of his cordial disposition to exercise any power with which he may be invested, to put an end to acts of Congress which would not be resorted to but for the orders in council, and, at the same time, of his determination to keep them in force against France, in case her decrees should not also be repealed"

[Enclosed in the foregoing letter.]

Department of State, Jan. 20, 1810.

SIR,

The President, anxious to adjust the existing differences between the United States and Great Britain, and deeming it expedient to make another effort for that purpose, has given it in charge to me to instruct you to renew negociations in London, under the commission dated 12th May, 1806, authorising Mr. Monroe and yourself severally, as well as jointly, "to treat with the British government, relative to the wrongs committed between the parties on the high seas, or other waters, and for establishing the principles of navigation and commerce between them."

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) R. SMITH.

To be continued.

* This letter is annexed.

CONGRESS.—In Senate,

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4.

Mr. *Condit* was stated in our last to have appeared on Monday—it should have been Mr. *Crawford.*

Messrs. Matthewson, Read and Lambert attended.

Messrs. *Smith and Gilman* were appointed a committee jointly with the committee of the House of Representatives to wait on the President of the U. States and inform him that Congress was ready to receive any communication he might have to make.

After adopting the usual rules respecting newspapers, &c.

Mr. *Smith* reported that the committee appointed to wait on the President of the U. States had received for answer from him, that he would make a communication to Congress to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Mr. *Smith* of Md. gave notice that on to-morrow he should ask leave to bring in a bill further to suspend in part the act, entitled "An act regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes."

Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Mr. Pickering and Mr. Bradley attended.

The message of the President and documents accompanying the same were read, and five hundred copies ordered to be printed.

Agreeably to notice, and leave being obtained, Mr. *Smith* of Md. introduced the following bill:

A bill further to suspend in part the act entitled "An act regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes."

Be it enacted, &c. That so much of the act, entitled "An act for regulating foreign coins, and for other purposes," as is contained within the second section thereof, be, and the same is hereby suspended for and during the space of three years from and after the end of the present session of Congress.

The bill was read a first time and passed to a second reading.

Thursday, December 6.

At the usual hour of meeting a number of members assembled; but a quorum not appearing, about one o'clock the Senate adjourned. [It may be proper to remark that one of the Senators (gen. German) who came here sick, was temporarily confined by indisposition.]

Friday, Dec. 7.

Mr. Anderson attended.

The petition of Larkin Smith, collector of the port of Norfolk, praying for an increase of compensation, has been referred to Messrs. Giles Leib & Crawford.

The bill to suspend the second section of the act entitled "An act regulating foreign coins and for other purposes," was read a second time, and committed to Messrs. Smith of Md. Crawford and Dana.

On motion of *Mr. Giles.*

Resolved, That so much of the message of the President of the U. States as concerns the relations between the United States and France and Great Britain, with the accompanying documents, be referred to a select committee to examine and report thereon to the Senate and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Messrs. Giles, Crawford, Anderson, Goodrich and Pope were appointed a committeee accordingly.

Mr. Giles also offered the following resolution, the consideration of which was on motion postponed to Monday next:

Resolved, That so much of the message of the President of the U. States as relates to the occupation of that part of West Florida which is included within the boundaries described by the treaty for the acquisition of Louisiana, with the accompanying documents, be referred to a select committee with instructions to examine the same, and report thereon to the Senate; and that the committee have leave to reprt by bill, bills or otherwise.

On motion of *Mr. Smith* of Md.

Resolved, That so much of the President's message as relates to Corps of Engineers and the Military Academy be referred to a select committee to report by bill, bills or otherwise.

Messrs. Smith of Md. Gilman, Bradley, Pickering and Reed were appointed the committee.

The petition (presented on Tuesday by Mr. Giles) of the Stockholders of the Farmer's Bank of Alexandria, praying for a charter, was on motion, referred to Messrs. Giles, Leib, Goodrich, Crawford and Cutts.

Adjourned to Monday.

House of Representatives.

Tuesday, December 4.

The House met at the usual hour. On reading over the journal of the preceding day, it appeared that Messrs. Matthews and Van Dyke, whom we stated in our last to have been present, had not attended.

Messrs. Burwell and Huntingdon, who attended yesterday, were omitted in our last.

The following members, in addition to those mentioned in our last, took their seats:—

Messrs. Basset, Cutts, Eppes, Gold, Jenkins, Mitchell, Seaver and Potter. Messrs. Poydras and Jennings, Territorial delegates, also appeared.

A message was received from the Senate, about one o'clock, by Mr. Otis, their Secretary, stating that a quorum of that body had appeared, and were ready to proceed to business.

Another message was subsequently received from the Senate, that they had appointed a committee, jointly with the committee appointed by the House, to wait on the President of the U. States, and inform him that they were ready to receive any communications he might have to make.

Mr. Dawson, from the commitee appointed to wait on the President of the United States, &c. reported that the committee had performed the duty assigned them, and had received for answer, that the President would make a communication to Congress on to-morrow at 12 o'clock.

Wednesday, Dec. 5.

Messrs. Sage, Taggart, W. Chamberlin, J. C. Chamberlin, Wheaton, Quincy, Blaisdell, Matthews, Sturges, and Chittenden appeared this day.

At twelve o'clock the Message was ceceived from the President of the U. States, [which appeared in the last Star.]

The Message was read, & the house were occupied with reading the documents until four o'clock; when an adjournment took place without having gone through them.

The documents accompanying the message are very voluminous, comprising, besides those given in this paper, much detailed correspondence between the Department of State aad our ministers to Great Britain and France; the unpublished parts of which shall be given in as quick succession as we can procure them.

Thursday Dec. 6.

Immediately on meeting the House resumed the reading of the documents accompanying the message of the President of the United States, which being concluded:

On motion of Mr. Newton, 3000 copies of the message and documents companying the same were ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Macon, these papers were referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the Union.

On motion of Mr. Alston, it was ordered that the several standing committees be now appointed. The following gentlemen were accordingly appointed by the Speaker on the respective committees:

Committee of Elections.—Messrs. Findley, Clay, Sturges, Troup, Taylor, Van Rensellaer and Taggart.

Committee of Claims.—Messrs. Root, Butler, R. Brown, Stanly, Gholson, Goldsborough and Shaw.

Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.—Messrs. Newton, Mitchill, Cutts, Pitkin, M'Kim, Seybert and Bibb.

Committee of Ways and Means.—Messrs. Eppes, W. Alston, Talmadge, Montgomery, Bacon, Smilie and Johnson.

Committee of Public Lands.—Messrs. Morrow, Goodwyn, Fly, Boyd, Gold, Cobb, and M'Kee.

Committee of Revisal and Unfinished Business.—Messrs. Southard Jackson and Witherspoon.

Committee for District of Columbia.—Messrs. Van Horn, L. J. Alston, Weakley; G. Smith, J. C. Chamberlin, Tracy and Breckenridge.

Committee of Accounts.—Messrs. N. R. Moore, Turner and Kenan.

Committee of Post Offices and Post Roads.—Messrs. Rhea, Ten. Thompson Desha, Standford, Troup Calhoun, Morrow, Davenport, Chittenden, Key, Whitehill, J. Smith, Potter, Wilson, Seaver, and Hufty.

Mr. Southard laid before the House the resolution of the Legislature of New-Jersey disapproving the amendments to the constitution proposed by the state of Massachusetts for limiting the power to lay embargoes; by the state of Pennsylvania, for erecting an impartial tribunal to decide disputes between states; and by the state of Virginia for the removal of Senators of the United States on the request of a majority of the Legislature of each state respectively.

Friday, Dec. 7.

On motion of *Mr. Root,* the House resolved itself a committee of the whole on the state of the Union, *Mr. Macon,* in the chair.

Mr. *Root* then moved the appointment of several committees on the President's message; but it being suggested that the documents had not been laid on the tables of the members.

The committee rose, without deciding on any thing in relation to the message.

Mr. *Lewis* presented the petition of the Stockholders of the Farmers' Bank of Alexandria, praying for a charter; which was referred to a committee on the District of Columbia.

Useful Inventions.

On motion of Mr. *Bacon,*

Resolved, That the Secretary of State be directed to lay before this House a list of the names of persons who have invented any new or useful arts, machine manufacture, or composition of matter or any improvement thereon, and to whom patents have been issued for the same from that office subsequent to the 23d day of January 1805 with the dates and general objects of such patents.

Apportionment of Representation.

Mr. *Fisk* laid upon the table the following resolutions:

Resolved, That the apportionment of Representatives among the several states according to the third enumeration of the people ought to be in the ratio of one representative for every thousand persons in each state, and that a committee be appointed to report thereon, by bill or otherwise.

On the suggession of Mr. Alston that the appointment ought to be fixed before the census of each state was known, and thus avoid a difficulty which would arise in fixing on a ratio—

The House now took up the resolution, which was agreed to, and a committee of 7 appointed.

After the presentation and reference of some other petitions, amongst which were petitions from sundry sugar refiners—Adjourned to Monday.

IN KENT COUNTY COURT,

September 22d, 1810.

ON application of *Edward Nicholson, Robert Clothier, Robert Davidson, Charles Bailey,* and *Samuel Bramble,* severally by petition in writing, praying the benefit of the act for the relief of sundry insolvent debtors, passed at November session, eighteen hundred and five, and the several supplements thereto, on the terms mentioned in the said acts, a schedule of their property and a list of their creditors, on oath, as far as they can ascertain them, being annexed to their petitions—and the said Edward Nicholson, Robert Clothier, Robert Davidson, Charles Bailey, and Samuel Bramble having satisfied the court by competent testimony that they have resided, severally, two years within the state of Maryland, immediately preceding the time of their applications: Having also stated in their petitions that they are now in actual confinement for debt, and not on account of any breach of the peace, or for the non-payment of any fine or penalty for the breach of the laws of this state, or of the United States;—and having produced the several certificates of the sheriff of Kent county, to that effect—and having prayed to be discharged from confinement on the terms prescribed in the said act of 1805; and having also severally given security for their personal appearance at the next county court, to answer any allegations that may be made against them by their creditors. It is therefore hereby adjudged and ordered by the said court, that the said Edward Nicholson, Robert Clothier, Robert Davidson, Charles Bailey, and Samuel Bramble be severally discharged from their confinement, (and by causing a copy of this order to be inserted in the Easton Star, once a week for four weeks successively, within three months before the third Monday of March next, and also by causing a copy of this order to be set up at the court house door of the county aforesaid, and at one of the taverns in Chester Town) to give notice to their creditors to appear before the said county court, at the court house of the said county at two o'clock in the afternoon of the said day, for the purpose of recommending trustees for their benefit, and to shew cause, if any they have, why the said Edward Nicholson, Robert Clothier, Robert Davidson, Charles Bailey, and Samuel Bramble should not have the benefit of the several acts of assembly for the relief of insolvent debtors.

Test,

BEN. CHAMBERS, Clk. K. C. C.

December 13, 1810——4

50 DOLLARS REWARD.

RAN away from the subscriber on the 22d of October last, a negro man by the name of *Dawsey,* about 5 feet 6 or 8 inches high, rather a dark mulatto, about 25 years of age—His clothes that he took with him were a black kersey over-jacket and trowsers, and an old white hat; he walks very crippling, and with his toes turned out. He formerly belonged to Mr. Henry Holliday, of this county, and it is supposed he is lurking about Mr. Holliday's brother's farm, in Queen-Ann's county. Whoever takes up said negro and secures him so that I get him again, shall receive the above reward, and all reasonable charges paid if brought home.

HENRY CATRUP.

Talbot county, near Easton, December 18, 1810. }——m