CONGRESS.—In Senate,

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27.

Mr. *Anderson* presented the petition of commodore Porter, praying indemnification for certain expences incurred in the seizure and prosecution to condemnation of certain vessels whilst he commanded at Orleans. Referred to Messrs. Anderson, Campbell and Clay.

Mr. *Pope* introduced a bill authorising a subscription, on the part of the United States, to the stock of the Ohio Canal company. Passed to a second reading.

WEST FLORIDA.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill declaring the laws now in force in the territory of Orleans to extend to and to have full force and effect to the river Perdido, pursuant to the treaty concluded at Paris on the 30th April, 1803; and for other purposes.

The question was on the bill's passage to a third reading.

Mr. *Pope* rose, and in a speech of about an hour, supported the provisions of the bill, and the occupation of the territory by the President of the United States.

After Mr. Pope had concluded—

Mr. *Pickering* said this was a subject of great importance, and ought not to be hurried to a decision on the first day of discussion. This was the first time the claim of the United States had been presented to the senate in a shape to afford scope for discussion. He wished time for consideration, and moved to postpone the further consideration of the subject to Monday.

Motion lost, ayes 5.

It was then moved to postpone it till to-morrow, and carried.

Friday, Dec. 28.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill respecting the territory west of the Perdido.

Mr. *Horsey* spoke about an hour and a half against the bill, and in opposition to the measure of taking possession of the disputed territory.

Mr. *Clay* replied in a speech of about an hour, asserting the right of the United States to the country in question, and vindicating the act of the Executive in relation to it.

When Mr. *Clay* concluded, the senate adjourned.

Previous to adjournment, however, Mr. Dana gave notice he should ask for leave to bring in a bill for the protection of the seamen of the United States.

Monday, Dec. 31.

Mr. *Taylor* attended and took the oath priscribed by law.

WEST FLORIDA.

The senate resumed the consideration of the bill extending the law now in force in Orleans territory to the Perdido, &c.

Mr. *Pickering* commenced a speech, in which he proceeded about an hour—when he read, as an evidence in support of his argument against the title of the United States to Louisiana or Florida between the Mississippi and Perdido, a letter from Charles Maurice Talleyrand, the French minister for foreign affairs, dated 21st December, 1804, to General Armstrong, our minister at Paris, on the subject of certain overtures which had been made by our ministers in Spain for the aid of France in procuring a cession to the United States of one or both Floridas. The purport of Talleyrand's letter appeared to be, a denial that the United States had acquired, by the treaty of 1803, any title to Louisiana east of the Mississippi, or some statement to that effect.

When Mr. Pickering had concluded the reading of this letter—

Mr. *Smith* (Md.) said he wished to enquire whether the paper, which the gentleman had just read, had ever been publicly communicated to the senate?

Mr. *Pickering* said it had been communicated, not indeed as a public paper—but for what reason had it been communicated confidentially? Because by a publication of it at the time, injury might have been done to our ministers or our affairs abroad. There was however now no reason why the whole truth should not be known. They were about taking a step which was one of peace or war, and it was important that every thing in relation to the subject should be disclosed.

Mr. *Smith* (Md.) said that whenever papers were communicated to the senate confidentially, before they could be read publicly in this body or any other, it was necessary that the permission of the senate should be obtained; which no doubt if asked in this case would have been granted. But if this proceeding were permitted to pass unnoticed, any individual might have the power to do the greatest injury to the nation, as his humor might move him. He apprehended the proceeding was wrong; but gentlemen older in the senate than he was could perhaps better decide.

On the suggestion of a member, the galleries were cleared. The senate sat with closed doors for an hour—when we were again admitted.

Mr. *Clay* submitted the following resolution, which lies on the table of course.

Resolved, That the public perusal in the senate of certain papers with open galleries by the gentleman from Massachusetts, (Mr. Pickering) in his seat without a special order of the senate removing the injunction of secrecy, which papers had been confidentially communicated to the senate by the President of the United States, was a palpable violation of the rules of this body.

The senate then adjourned to Wednesday.

Wednesday, Jan. 2, 1811.

Mr. *Dana* introduced a bill for the benefit of the seamen of the United States; which was passed to a second reading.

Mr. *Clay* called for the consideration of the resolution moved by him yesterday, which he modified so as to read as follows:

Resolved, That Timothy Pickering, a senator from the state of Massachusetts, having on this day, whilst the senate was in session with open doors, read from his place certain documents confidentially communicated by the President of the United States to the senate, the injunction of secrecy not having been removed, has in so doing committed a [palpable] violation of the rules of that body.

Mr. *Lloyd* moved that the further consideration of the resolution be postponed. Motion lost, ayes 9.

After a discussion of two hours, during which the resolution was amended by the mover, on the suggestion of Mr. Crawford, so as to leave out the word "*palpable*" the resolution was passed.

For the resolution—Messrs. Anderson, Brent, Campbell, Clay, Condit, Crawford, Cutts, Franklin, Gaillard, German, Gilman, Lieb, Mathewson, Read, Robinson, Smith (Md.) Smith (N.Y.) Tait, Taylor, Whiteside.—20.

Against the resolution—Messrs. Bradley, Champlin, Dana, Goodrich, Horsey, Lambert, Lloyd.—7.

House of Representatives.

Thursday, December 27.

Mr. *Bibb* said he had the honor at the last session to present the memorial of the state of Georgia respecting the boundary line between that state and North Carolina; he now again presented it and moved its reference to a select committee. Agreed to.

Mr. *Macon* reported a bill to constitute the territory of Orleans a state and to admit it into the union on a footing of equality with the original states; which was twice read and committed.

The House resumed the consideration of the bill providing for the final adjustment of claims to lands and for the sale of the public lands in the territories of Orleans and Indiana.

After several abortive attempts to amend the bill, viz. by Mr. Poindexter, to insert a provision respecting the mode of taking evidence in relation to land titles; by Mr. Bibb, to strike out so much of the bill as gives to settlers on these lands a right of pre-emption; and by Mr. Johnson, to add a provision giving an advantage to persons having erected mills on the lands—the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Friday, December 28.

Mr. *M'Kim* presented a petition from sundry merchants of Baltimore, on the subject of the operation of the law of May last, &c.—Referred to the committee on foreign relations.

MISSISSIPPI TERRITORY.

Mr. *Poindexter*, offered the following resolution:

Resolved, *That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of authorising the people of the Mississippi territory to elect a convention to form a constitution preparatory to the admission of that territory into the union as a separate and independent state; and that the committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.*

Mr. *Pitkin* moved that the resolution lie on the table, he not being prepared at this time to decide on it. Motion lost, 54 to 51.

The resolution was modified by Mr. Poindexter so as to read as follows:

"Resolved, *That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of admitting the territory into the union as a separate and independent state.*"

As modified, after debate, the resolution was agreed to.

Saturday, Dec. 29.

Mr. *M'Kim* presented the petition of William Patterson and sons, merchants of Baltimore, praying permission to reland cargoes, which had been shipped for exportation, but not being able to obtain a reasonable insurance, had been compelled to abandon the voyages.—Referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. *Morrow* presented petitions from sundry inhabitants of the state of Ohio, praying that Congress will reduce the price of certain lands lying within the first purchase, because said lands are of an inferior quality.—Referred to the committee of Public Lands.

Monday, Dec. 31.

Mr. *Van Dyke* attended this day.

Two messages (as published in the Star on the 15th instant) were received from the president of the U. States, by Mr. Coles, his secretary. So much thereof as relates to a tariff of duties, was referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures; and the remainder to the committee of foreign relations. Three thousand copies thereof were ordered to be printed.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, enclosing the estimates of appropriations necessary for the service of the ensuing year.—Referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

The bill providing for the final adjustment of claims to land, and for the sale, of the public lands, in the territories of Orleans and Lousiana, was read a third time and passed.

FOREIGN COINS.

On motion of Mr. *Quincy*, the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the amendments reported by the select committee to the bill from the Senate respecting foreign coins.—[The amendments go to make all foreign coin current at its standard value, and to repeal all other acts relating to the currency of foreign coins in the U. States. This bill to continue in force three years.] The bill went through a committee of the whole, and was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

A bill for the removal of certain land-offices, and regulating certain sales of lands in the district east of Pearl river, went through a committee of the whole, and was ordered to be engrossed.

Tuesday, January 1.

There not being a quorum, the House adjourned till to-morrow.

Wednesday, January 2.

The Speaker laid before the House the resignation of John Taylor, esq. as a member of this House.

On motion of Mr. *Root*,

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before this House a statement of the whole expence to the government of the Mint of the United States since its first establishment, the profits and the copper coinage; the amount of gold coined at the Mint, and the rate per cent. of the expence in refining gold bullion below the standard fineness.

Mr. *Van Horn* presented the petition of the President and Directors of the Potomac Company, praying the privilege of raising money by Lottery within the District of Columbia.—Referred to the committee on the District of Columbia.

A communication was received from the Secretary of the Treasury, respecting the rejected claims to land in the Kaskaskia district.—Referred to the Committee of Public Lands.

ORLEANS TERRITORY.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. BASSET in the chair, on the bill, providing for the admission of the Territory of Orleans into the Union, 48 to 35.

A motion was made by Mr. *Troup*, that the committee should rise, for the purpose of obtaining information as to the population of the Territory. A debate of some length took place, in which Messrs. Troup, Bibb, Sheffey advocated the motion, and were opposed by Messrs. Macon, Gholson, W. Alston and Barry.

The committee rose, reported progress and asked leave to sit again.

Mr. *Bigelow* opposed the giving leave to sit again, and Mr. W. Alston supported it; but before the question was taken, the House adjourned, at about 4 o'clock.

NAVY AGENTS AT LEGHORN.

HOUSE *of* REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 7, 1811.

REPORT

OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY,

Made in obedience to the resolutions of the House of Representatives of the twenty-fourth and twenty-seventh ult. respecting several bills of exchange drawn on Degen, Purviance and company, Navy Agents of the United States, at Leghorn, in Italy.

Navy Department, January 4th, 1811.

Sir—In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 24th ult. requesting me "to explain to the House the cause, wherefore the several bills of exchange amounting to 256,000 dollars, and of various dates, from May 10, 1805, to February 21, 1807, were charged in the account No. 2, of Degen, Purviance and company, Navy Agents at Leghorn, as settled at the Navy Department on the 17th March, 1809, and for what reasons the same were not included in the account of the said Degen and company, which was settled at the Navy Department on the 30th June, 1808; and also to inform the House whether the said bills were purchased by the then Secretary of the Navy, or by a navy agent, and if by the latter, that a copy of the said navy agent's account, embracing the period of purchase, also accompany the information required;" I have now the honor to report:—

That the cause, why "the several bills of exchange amounting to 256,000 dollars, and of various dates from May 10th, 1805, to February 21st, 1807, were charged in the account No. 2, of Degen, Purviance and company, navy agents at Leghorn," was, at the time the account No. 2 was settled, the receipt of the bills had been acknowledged by Degen, Purviance and company, and such acknowledgement warranted the charge.

That the cause, why "the said bills were not included in the account of said Degen and company, which was settled at the Navy Department on the 30th June, 1808," was, at the time that account was settled, the said Degen and company had not acknowledged the receipt of the said bills; at least the accountant of the Navy had not then received such acknowledgement; & of course had no voucher that would, consistently with established rule in adjusting public accounts, have warranted his charging the said bills to the said Degen, Purviance and company.

That by reference to the records of the office, it appears that the said bills were purchased by a navy agent, viz: General John Stricker, of Baltimore; that none of them were purchased by the Secretary of the Navy; but that in all cases when remittances were judged to be necessary, the Secretary of the Navy issued his instructions to the agent, directing him to purchase bills on the best terms in his power. The form of such instructions is transmitted herewith and marked A.

As these bills were purchased by a navy agent, I am required by the resolution to lay before the House a copy of the agent's account embracing the period of purchase. The object of the resolution appearing to me to be solely to require information respecting the bills in question, I have requested the accountant of the navy, in preparing this account, to exclude all matter irrelative to that subject; and to present the account of the purchase of the bills in a form as concise as possible, yet comprehending all the information deemed necessary to a perfect understanding of it. I trust that in this respect, I have correctly understood the object of the resolution. If copies of the agent's accounts generally as rendered and settled at the office were given, they would include a great variety of purchases not connected with this subject; and it might be inconvenient to the House to select from them the information desired. The account as rendered and marked C. states "the periods of purchase," the exchange, the periods of payment for the bills purchased, the persons of whom purchased, and the persons upon whom the bills were drawn; and with the statements above, and, the letter of the accountant of the navy herewith transmitted and marked B, will, it is hoped, afford all the information required by the resolution of the 24th ultimo.

It now remains for me to comply with the resolution of the 27th, which directs me "to lay before the House such further information relative to the case as may be in the possession of the Navy Department, and as may be necessary to a full knowledge of the subject."

Being left, in some measure, by this resolution, to exercise my own judgment as to the additional information "necessary to a full knowledge of the subject," I shall not, I hope, be considered as trespassing upon the time of the House in laying before it the following—

Papers No 1. and 2, which shew that the arrangement first made, with respect to supplies for our vessels stationed in the Mediterranean, was to make London the sole place for depositing funds, and to authorize the agents in the Mediterranean, who might furnish supplies, to draw upon London for their reimbursement.

Papers No. 3 and 4, in which the Secretary of the Navy requested Degen, Purviance and company, to establish a credit for our squadron at Naples, so that the officers might draw upon either Naples or Leghorn, as the public interest might dictate; and which shew that the other agents in the Mediterranean were occasionally authorized to draw on Leghorn.

Paper No. 5, which shews that in the year 1805, negociations on London were, in the Mediterranean ports, attended with a loss of 10 per cent. and would probably become "more ruinous;" and also advices of a loss of 6 per cent. on bills drawn at Leghorn directly upon the Navy Department.

Paper No. 6, in which commodore Rogers, on the 1st of November, 1805, advises, for the reasons therein stated, and which concur with the reasons assigned in paper No. 5, that the principal funds for defraying the expences of the squadron be lodged at Gibraltar, Leghorn and Naples; and that he had determined not to draw on London for further supplies, until he should hear from the Secretary of the Navy upon the subject.

Paper No. 7, in which Degen, Purviance and company, on the 20th Nov. 1809, advised the Secretary of the Navy of drafts upon them to an amount exceeding 60,000 dollars.

Paper No. 8, in which commodore Rogers, on the 24th December, 1805, advised the Secretary of the Navy of his having drawn on him for 90,000 dollars; and stated, as a reason for his not having drawn on the agents at Leghorn and Naples, his apprehension, "that the government funds in their hands were not sufficient to enable them to comply with such large demands, as when he left Leghorn, (November 9th, 1805,) Degen, Purviance and company, informed him they were rather in advance."

Paper No. 9. A brief view of the bills amounting to 256,000 dollars, purchased by general Stricker and remitted to the agents at Leghorn, by which it appears that 166 000 dollars of those bills were purchased subsequently to the advice contained in papers Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Paper No. 10. Extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the commanding naval officer in the Mediterranean, dated 4th September, 1806, advising him that considerable funds had lately been deposited in the hands of Degen, Purviance and Co. and requiring him to exercise a sound discretion in using them.

Paper No. 11. Letters from James Mackenzie and A. Glennie, London, which shew that on the 4th November, 1806, they had been overdrawn upon to an amount exceeding 15,600 pounds sterling, which, after commodore Rogers's letter of the 1st. November, 1805, (No. 6.) could not have been anticipated by the department.

Paper No. 12. Letter from the Secretary of the Navy to James Mackenzie and A. Glennie, dated 6th January 1807, expressing his surprise at their having been drawn upon to so large an amount, as sufficient funds, had been placed at Leghorn, and direction given to the commanding officer to draw on that place.

Paper No. 13. Extract of a letter from the Secretary of the Navy to the commanding naval officer in the Mediteranean, dated 14th July, 1807, directing him, prior to his leaving the Mediteranean, to draw out of the hands of agents at Leghorn, all the funds in their possession belonging to the Navy Department.

Paper No. 14, which shews, that in pursuance of the order referred to in paper No. 13, the sum of 59,923 dolls. 60, cents was paid over by the agents at Leghorn.

Papers No. 15, 16 and 17, which among other information, shew that the late Secretary of the Navy did not, at any time, directly, or indirectly officially or privately, give to gen. Stricker (the agent who purchased the bills) any instruction or intimation, as to the persons from whom he was to purchase the bills of exchange remitted to the agents at Leghorn, on account of the Navy Department; and that the said agent did not, in any manner or form, give to the late Secretary of the Navy any intimation as to the persons from whom he was disposed to purchase, the said bills of exchange, excepting only the bill for 6,000 dollars, purchased of W. L. and J. Barney; but that the said agent acted, with respect to sellers, drawers and endorsers, at his own discretion and upon his own official responsibility; and from the character justly sustained by the said agent, I can entertain no doubt of his having been guided, in the purchase of the bills, by the same considerations that would have influenced him, had he been purchasing them on his own private account.

Paper No. 18. Letter from Colonel Buchanan to Gen. Stricker, 31st Dec. 1810; and paper No. 19, letter from William Y. Purviance to the Secretary of the Navy, 31st Dec. 1810) which relate to the drawers of a proportion of the bills in question, and tends to afford information upon a material part of the transaction.

It has not appeared to me, in the view I have taken of this subject, necessary to send copies of all the letters written to and received from the different agents upon the subjects of remittances to Leghorn, for such a course would be multiplying papers without affording any further essential information; the papers submitted shew—

That the arrangement first made, with respect to supplies for our squadron in the Mediteranean was to deposit funds in London only, upon which the agents in the Mediterranean were to draw to reimburse themselves for the supplies they might furnish.

That this arrangement was subsequently changed, and Leghorn made a place of deposit as well as London.

That upon the funds placed in the hands of the agents at Leghorn, not only the officers of the navy and the navy agent at Naples, but occasionally the other navy agents in the Mediterranean, were authorised to draw.

That in the year 1805, the department was advised, that on bills drawn in the Mediterranean on London their was a loss of ten per cent. and on bills drawn in the Mediteranean on the U. S. of 6 per cent.

That the bills purchased in Baltimore and remitted to Leghorn, were purchased some at par, some under, but none above par; which is 91 cents, the Leghorn dollar.

That in the year 1805, commodore Rogers advised the Secretary of the Navy to place the principal funds for the disbursements of the squadron, at Gibraltar, Leghorn and Naples, and that he should not again draw on London till he should receive from the Secretary of the Navy instructions on that subject.

That about the close of the year 1805, commodore Rogers advised the Secretary of the Navy of his having drawn upon the navy department for