CONGRESS.—In Senate,

Thursday, January 10.

The doors were closed, and after the consideration of Executive and confidential business were again opened.

Mr. *Gregg*, reported a bill for the relief of Isaac Wayne, son and executor of the late Major General Anthony Wayne, which passed to a second reading.

Friday, January 11.

The bill authorising the sale and grant of a certain quantity of public lands to the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, was passed to a third reading.

The bill for the benefit of the seamen of the United States was referred to Messrs. Dana, Lloyd, Bradley, Gilman and Smith (Md.)

The bill making further provision for the Corps of Engineers, was passed to a third reading.

The doors were closed, and, after the consideration of confidential business, were again opened.

Thursday, January 17.

The Vice President not attending this day, the Senate did not meet.

Friday, January 18.

The bill from the House of Representatives for the admission of Orleans into the Union as a state, was read a second time and committed to Messrs. Tait, Bayard, Goodrich, Clay and Gregg.

The bill for establishing a quarter-master's department was further considered, and, on motion of Mr. *Franklin*, postponed till the next session of Congress.

The bill from the House of Representatives regulating foreign coins (so as to make them current according to weight) was on motion of Mr. *Crawford*, postponed to the first Monday in June next.

The bill for ascertaining the boundaries of the Public Land at West Point, was read a third time and passed.

House of Representatives.

Thursday, January 10.

The Speaker laid before the House the report of the Secretary of the Treasury, relative to the U. S. Bank.

This report was referred to the committee of the whole, to whom is referred the bill on the subject of the Bank of the U. States.

Mr. *Wright* reported a bill for the protection and government of West Florida; which was twice read, and on motion of Mr. *Rhea*, recommitted to the committee who reported it, on the ground of its containing provisions clashing with those yesterday agreed on by the House in relation to the Orleans Territory.

The House, on motion of Mr. *Bibb*, resumed the consideration of the resolution offered by him respecting erecting a separate territorial government in the territory West of Perdido, &c.—On motion of Mr. *Bibb*, the same was committed to the committee to whom was recommitted the bill this day reported by Mr. Wright.

ORLEANS TERRITORY.

The bill to enable the people of the territory of Orleans to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the Union on an equal footing with the original states; was read a third time.

Mr. *Pitkin* commenced a speech against the bill, chiefly objecting to the detail.

When he had been speaking about half an hour—

The *Speaker* observed that a message was in attendance from Senate of a CONFIDENTIAL nature.

On motion of Mr. Pitkin, the bill was ordered to lie on the table, the doors were closed, and so remained till 4 o'clock, when the House adjourned.

During the sitting with closed doors, a message of a confidential nature was received from the *President of the U. States* by Mr. Edward Coles, his secretary.

Friday, January 11.

The House sat the whole of this day with closed doors.

Thursday, January 17.

Mr. *Eppes* from the committee of Ways and Means reported appropriation bills for the expences of the current year.

Mr. *Johnson* reported a bill establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes. Twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

The *Speaker* observed that he was informed that the Secretary to the President of the United States was in waiting, with a confidential message.

On motion of Mr. *Southard* the galleries were cleared, and the doors closed. They were, after a few minutes, again opened.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

The house again in committee of the whole on the bill for renewing the charter, &c.

The motion for striking out the first section still under consideration.

Mr. Fisk spoke at considerable length against the motion; and Mr. Seybert in support of it; Mr. Smilie spoke a few minutes in reply to Mr. Fisk.

The committee rose, about 4 o'clock and obtained leave to sit again.

Friday, January 18.

CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. *Sheffey* cited several cases from the proceeding of Congress in 1804, 5 and 6 going to shew that motions for removing injunctions of secrecy had at that time, in some cases, and almost in all, been made with closed doors; and concluding, from these precedents, that there was no impropriety in this course, was about to make a motion in relation to the late confidential proceedings.

The *Speaker* apprised him that according to the late practice, such a motion ought not to be made without clearing the galleries.

Mr. *Sheffey* appealed from the decision of Speaker; which, however, was confirmed by the House, 76 to 38.

Mr. *Sheffey* then stated that he had a motion to make requiring secrecy.—The galleries were cleared, and so remained only a few minutes. We may be allowed to infer that Mr. Sheffey made the motion in conclave, which it was not in order to make in public, and that it was negatived.

BANK OF THE UNITED STATES.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill to renew the charter of the Bank of the United States.

Mr. *Burwell's* motion for striking out the first section still under consideration.

Mr. *P. B. Potter* spoke at length in favor of it.

The question was then taken on striking out the first section, and carried, 59 to 46.

The committee rose, reported to the House; who adjourned without taking a question on the report.

Saturday, January 19.

Mr. *Gardenier* appeared.

At the suggestion of the Speaker, he having something to communicate which required secrecy, the doors were closed, and after ten minutes again opened.

Mr. *Newton* reported a bill to remit certain fines, penalties and forfeitures.

The bill was twice read and referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. *Sawyer* called for the order of the day on the unfinished business of yesterday, the bill continuing the charter of the bank of the U. States.

Mr. *Fisk* moved that it should lie on the table. This was disagreed to—57 to 46.

The House then proceeded to consider the report of the committee of the whole.

Mr. *Desha* spoke in favor of the report; Mr. Pickman against it; Mr. W. Alston in favor of the report, but also in favor of a National Bank on the ground of constitutionality; and Mr. Key concluded the debate of this day by a speech against the report.

The House adjourned without coming to a decision.

Monday, January 21.

On motion of Mr. *Hubbard*,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to cause to be laid before this House such information as he may possess respecting seizures, captures & condemnations of vessels of the United States by the respective governments of Europe, or either of them, which has not heretofore been laid before this House.

Mr. *Goldsborough* presented a memorial, praying the establishment of a port of entry at White Haven, (Md.) Referred to the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

On motion of Mr. *Helms*,

Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to transmit to this House, a return of the army, of the stations at which garrisons are fixed, the strength of each garrison; and also the state of the recruiting service, and the progress which has been made therein since the last session.

Mr. *Poindexter* presented the memorial of the Legislature of the Mississippi Territory, praying admission as a state into the Union. Referred to the committee of the whole, having the report of the select committee on that subject under consideration.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

The very extravagant assertion of this young man in Congress, in relation to a dissolution, of the Union, is more to be ridiculed than reasoned down. He tells us that it is his *deliberate* opinion that an admission of Orleans as a state will be a virtual abrogation of the Union. The just reply to such a declaration would be, to say, if such be his deliberate opinion, his deliberate opinion, is a very silly one; and that it is no more worthy of consideration than the silly opinion of any other young man. But, as he is an *erring* fellow-citizen, we will charitably discuss with brevity the constitutional point which his declaration involves.—The constitution says *New States may be admitted into the Union*. There is, we believe, no limitation of this principle of admission. There is no mention that it is to be confined to the actual territory of the States at the period when the constitution was adopted; and those who have stated the *intention* of the framers of the constitution in this respect have said that the provision was introduced, for the purpose of embracing Canada. There being therefore, no *prohibition* to accepting Orleans as a state, and the same reason holding good with respect to Orleans as to Canada, to wit; the safety and integrity of the Union, where (we ask candid men,) is the objection to the admission of it into the Union? There is none; and we must believe that Mr. Quincy is playing at *false opinion* when he says there is.

Leaving this special point, we cannot sufficiently condemn the common argument, which we perceive frequently introduced on the floor of Congress, namely, that this or that measure will *dissolve the Union*. The embargo was to dissolve the Union: the non-intercourse was to dissolve the Union; taking our own property in West Florida is to dissolve the Union; the United States Bank charter is to dissolve the Union; and *adding a state to* the Union is to dissolve the Union; which last, may be called *Josiah Quincy's Bull*; for that which increases cannot certainly dissolve the Union. Now all this is the merest trash, (considered as argument) that men with heads on their shoulders can offer to fright the world out of its wits. We fancy these same prognosticators have very different thoughts at bottom than *dissolving* the Union; they want to *alarm* themselves into the government of that very Union which they threaten us with a dissolution of. At any rate, the sober, good sense of the old-fashioned people of the United States is not to be annihilated by the intemperate prattle of boys and politicians of a day's growth.—Mr. Quincy's expression, like all other bubbles, will be blown to and fro, and finally burst into nothing; for there are enough of frivolous people to *wonder* at it. But why should we wonder?—Is it any thing extraordinary that a young *party* man should say a silly thing? And with respect to its being Mr. Quincy's *deliberate* opinion, that only proves that he is capable of saying with *deliberation* what other weak men would hardly say if they were drunk.

Virginia Argus.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

I lay before Congress a letter from the charge' d' affairs of the United States at Paris, to the Secretary of State: and another from the same to the French minister of Foreign Relations; also two letters from the agent of the American consul at Bordeaux, to the Secretary of State.

JAMES MADISON.

January 31, 1811.

Copy of a letter from Jonathan Russell, Esqr. charge d' affairs of the United States at Paris, to Mr. Smith, Secretary of State, dated

PARIS, December 11.

SIR,

On the evening of the 9th instant, I learnt that the Essex frigate had arrived at L'Orient on the 4th, and had been quarantined for 5 days for the want of a bill of health, during which time the messenger is not allowed to come on shore. At the same time that I received this intelligence, I was also informed that the brig New Orleans Packet was seized at Bordeaux, under the Berlin and Milan decrees, by the director of the customs at that place. The simultaneous occurrence of these two events, formed in my opinion a crisis which required a prompt decision of this government. Under this impression I immediately addressed to the Duke of Cadore, the note of which the inclosed is a copy, and in which I thought it politic to remonstrate with firmness, against the proceedings of the director of the customs at Bordeaux, and to leave the government here at liberty to disavow them. This disavowal, I am persuaded depends entirely on the nature of the despatches brought by the Essex. I feel, therefore, the most lively anxiety to receive them. In the mean time I give this letter a chance of reaching you by a vessel about leaving Bordeaux for N. York.

Since my last the Hanseatic towns have been annexed to this empire.

I have informed Mr. Pinkney of the arrival of the Essex, and suggested to him the possibility that the proclamation of the president had come out by her, in order that he might, if he tho't proper, make a final attempt to obtain a repeal of the orders in council while it was yet in the power of the British ministry to do it with a good grace.

I have the honor to be, &c.

(Signed) JONA. RUSSELL.

Hon. Robert Smith, Secretary of State, United States.

Mr. Russell to the Duke de Cadore.

PARIS, December 10, 1810.

SIR,

I have this moment learnt that the American brig New Orleans Packet, lately arrived at Bordeaux has, with her cargo, the bona fide property of citizens of the United States, and laden at the port of New York, been seized by the director of the customs under the Berlin or Milan decrees. I have also been informed, that this director of the customs, not satisfied with this hardy violation of the solemn assurances given by your excellency to gen. Armstrong on the 5th of August last, and confirmed by your letter to him of the 5th September, that these decrees were revoked and would cease to operate from the 1st of November, has, without regard to the plighted faith of his government, announced his intention of selling the provisions which constitute a part of the cargo, under the pretext that they are perishable.

The clear and unequivocal manner in which the revocation of the Berlin & Milan decrees were announced by your excellency, forbid me for a moment to suppose that the violent proceedings of this man will be sanctioned by his majesty the emperor and king, or that the least delay will be allowed in placing the property thus arrested at the free disposition of the rightful owner, whose confidence alone in the good faith with which it becomes nations to perform their engagements, has brought him to the place where he is so inhospitably treated.

I am persuaded that your excellency will not, on this occasion, attempt to remind me of the conditions on which the revocation of those decrees were predicated. These conditions were in the alternative, and the performance of either is sufficient to render absolute and perpetual that revocation. It is of no importance that the British orders in council have not been withdrawn, if the United States, in due time, perform the condition which depends alone on them. And what is this condition? why to execute an act of congress against the English, which to be thus executed, requires the previous revocation of these very decrees. The letter of your excellency, of the 5th of August, appears to have been written with a full knowledge of this requisition of the law, and manifestly with the intention to comply with it in order that it might be competent for the president of the United States to exercise the contingent power which had been given to him.

It will not be pretended that the decrees have in fact been revoked; but the delay of the U States in performing the condition presented to them authorizes their revival. The case of the New-Orleans Packet is the first which has occurred since the 1st of Nov. to which the Berlin and Milan decrees could be applied, and if they applied to this case, it will be difficult for France to shew one solitary instance of their having been practically revoked. As to delay on the part of the U. States there has been none. No official information of the letter of your excellency of the 5th of Aug. left France for the U. States, owing to circumstances which was not in the power of Gen. Armstrong to controul, until the 29th of September, and to this moment I have not learnt that such official information has been there received. I might indeed have learnt it, and been able now to have communicated to your excellency, the measures on which the president has decided in consequence of it, had not the frigate the Essex, despatched by him, been put under quarantine on her arrival at L'Orient, for the want of a bill of health, and the messenger thereby detained since the 4th of this month.

I will not undertake to decide whether a bill of health ought, in courtesy, to be exacted of a frigate of a friendly power, coming in the *winter season* from a place not known to have been lately afflicted with any malignant disease; but surely the delay which this exaction occasions, cannot be imputed to a want of due diligence on the part of the American government.

It is from this view of the subject, that I am thoroughly convinced, that the application of Berlin or Milan decree by the Director of the Customs at Bordeaux, to the New-Orleans Packet, will not be approved by his majesty, but that prompt and efficient measures will be taken to correct a procedure, which, if persisted in, might produce a state of things which it is the obvious interest of both nations to avoid.

I pray your Excellency to be assured of my most distinguished consideration, &c.

(Signed)

JONATHAN RUSSELL.

Copy of a letter from Chr. Meyer to Mr. Smith, secretary of state.

United States' Consulate.

Bordeaux, December 6, 1810.

SIR—I have the honor to inclose a copy of Mr. Cathalaun's letter to me, received this morning, concerning the re-capture of the schooner Grace Ann Greene, of New York, Daniel Greene, master, who brought her into the port of Marseilles, having two British officers and seven sailors on board, and they only being six men, amongst which number two boys.

The brig New Orleans Packet, of N. York, with a cargo of provisions and three hundred bags of cocoa on board, bound to the Mediterranean for a market went to Gibraltar, where, after lying some time, came to this port, where she has been sequestered.

The schooner Friendship, of and from Baltimore capt. Snow with a cargo of coffee and Campeachy, is arrived five days ago in this river. Whatever the issue may be of these two vessels, I shall have the honor to inform you of.

I remain, very respectfully, Sir,

Your most ob't. humble servant,

(Signed) CHR. MEYER.

To the Secretary of State of the U. S. of America, Washington.

Copy of a letter from Chr. Meyer to Mr. Smith Secretary of State.

United States Consulate,

Bordeaux, December 14, 1810.

SIR—Annexed is triplicate of my respects to you of the 6th instant the brig Osmin and ship Commodore Rogers, by which the original and duplicate went, having not got to sea yet.

The brig New-Orleans Packet, of N. York, captain Harris, mentioned in my former letter, has since been seized by the Collector, and her cargo has been put in the imperial custom-house.

The schooner Friendship, of and from Baltimore, capt. Snow has been sequestered.

This is accompanied with an account of sundry advances made for the relief of distressed seamen for this port and the port of Bayonne, with 22 vouchers, amounting to fr'cs 4,934 20, and for which I have drawn on Jonathan Russell, Esq. our charge d'affaires at Paris.

Capt. Sheddy, of the schooner Maria Louisa bound to New-York, has eight distressed seamen on board, and for whom I have paid no passage money, nor have I laid in provisions for them.

The ship Commodore Rogers, capt. Shaler, from Bayonne, bound to New-York, will carry home from 50 to 60 seamen in distress, of whom I shall have the honour to transmit you a list and an account by my next.

The duty on cocoa has been reduced from fr. 5 50, to fr. 2 75, per pound.

The Essex frigate is arrived at L'-Orient, from the U. States.

This is accompanied by a file of newspapers and which I shall have the honor to continue to send whenever opportunities offer.

I have the honor &c. &c.

(Signed) CHR. MEYER.

Robert Smith, Esq. Secretary of State.

FROM THE NORFOLK HERALD.

HORRID MURDER & SUICIDE!!

It is almost impossible for the imagination to conceive a more horrible and tragical event in a civilized community, than the one which we have now the disagreeable task of announcing, and in recounting of which the pen recoils.

The particulars of this abominable deed we have from a young man who was a distant spectator of this shocking catastrophe, as given before the coroner's inquest. About one o'clock P. M. on Saturday last, a young man named *David Frank*, who was in the employ of *Mrs. Collins*, of this borough, was seen walking with *Miss Ann Collins*, the oldest daughter of his employer (a charming young girl of 14 years of age) on a small island opposite of her mothers residence, and on which some negroes were at work—They had not proceeded many paces during the witnesses observation, when he perceived *Frank* encircle *Miss C's.* waist with his arms, when she suddenly rushed from him, uttered a most violent shreik and instantly fell! upon which *F.* immediately ran to the adjoining creek and threw himself into it, apparently with the intention of drowning himself, in which being baffled by the shallowness of the water, he returned to the shore which he had no sooner regained than he also fell!!—The witness on perceiving these strange unaccountable proceedings, procured a canoe and crossed the creek without delay, when on attempting to raise the young lady (little dreaming of her melancholy fate) perceived her throat cut from ear to ear!!!—as soon as he recovered from the shock which so horrid a spectacle naturally produced, he approached the young man whom he found weltering in blood, and on examination he found his throat cut so effectually that his head was nearly severed from his body!!! He was lifeless, but the detestable weapon with which he had rendered himself so *(a short butcher knife)* was clenched in his hand.

Frank was a well conducted young man of about 21 years of age, and said to be of a respectable family in or contiguous to Richmond—but from the superscription of the following letter handed us this morning, suspect he is from Whshington city. There are various and contradictory reports afloat as to the motives of his committing this diabolical act; but the one most prevalent is, that of being thwarted in his affection, for the young innocent who fell a victim to his temerity.