ALEXANDRIA, April 20.

THE TIMES.

What are the times and the prospect before us? It appears from a summary of the secret proceedings reported for Jackson's Political Register (continued in our paper of to day) that Mr. Seybert declared that he voted for the regular army of 25,000 men, because he supposed the Executive meant war; but that he has new information in which he *confides*, that offensive operations are not intended—Mr. S. knows the force of words, and must be sensible of the effect such a declaration will have, and justly too, if it be correct, upon the American people; if the hon. member from Penn. will make good his assertion, or furnish warrantable evidence for his suppositions, we should for our own part have no difficulty in withdrawing from the ministerial party and give an entire attention to our local concerns, regardless of men or their professions. More than once have insinuations been thrown out that the administration do not mean war—we believe, & their conduct proves the fact, that they have no sentiments but what they dare and will *officially* avow when called upon, and we do assert, without the fear of contradiction, that the President has done all that was proper or needful; he has thrown no obstacle in the way, and this perhaps, is one good reason, why so little has been done. The Secretary of State has bestowed uncommon application and industry in arranging and furnishing, at an early period of the session, all the information necessary, or asked for, by the Committee of Foreign Relations, on the great subject of war, the state of the roads to Canada, the disposition and number of their forces, &c. &c. The Secretary of the Navy, and to the honor of his character, be it spoken, has, we are credibly informed, done every thing which related to his department, in a manner, much more satisfactory, than could have been expected from the general state of embarrassment in which he found it; and much to his individual credit, he has ordered two of our public vessels, commanded by Rogers and Porter, to cruize on the coast, and keep the entrance to the harbors of New York and Philadelphia open, whose duty it will be to inform all intruders, *that they must keep their proper distance, or they will be made to do so.* Thus, we see, that the *acts* of the government, & its principal agents have been of the most decided character, while the Congress of the United States, we would say, if it were in order, have spent a considerable portion of between five and six months in *active* debate, which has produced but very little effect. The people have become disgusted and careless, others, pressed by a series of unfavorable occurrences, have become desperate and almost infuriate, so as to excite a sympathy, that creates a deep rooted prejudice to all restrictive systems, in themselves unpopular and odious, and can never be defended with success, or effectually carried into execution, except in times of obvious public danger, when the mind, fraught with heat and zeal, will bear privations, as honorable, in preference to pecuniary considerations, which are disgraceful; but as this is a situation which cannot long be endured by a commercial people, it will be the part of prudent not to call out for useless purposes the energies of active citizens, who, in such case will be made subjects for ridicule. The minority, we agree with Mr. Williams (whose conduct is act only magnanimous but noble) have kept a most respectful silence on the floor of Congres upon all subjects touching our Foreign Relations, but Mr. W. is much mistaken if he supposes this has been produced from a regard to the acts or character of the majority.—Experience has taught the opposition that declamatory speeches made in the House of Representatives, and published perhaps, months after the subject has been finally decided on, have had but little effect on the public mind, already formed by previous impressions; they have heretofore changed their mode of proceeding; instead of praying to Hercules, they have put their shoulders to the wheel, by a resort to instantaneous publications, supported by personal exertions, conducted with secrecy and zeal, as was the case with their "*Statement of Facts,*" *in relation to the Executive and John Henry*, which were distributed over the whole union, particularly in Massachusetts, without its having been known in Washington, where a copy could not be obtained except by those concerned, altho' it contained "*facts*" which were intended for general purposes, and had the signatures of *D. Sheffey J. Quincy and James Emott* as vouchers for the authenticity of *certain* documents contained in it but which were *placed* in so imposing a manner as to have the appearance of qualifying the whole. This perhaps will prove when too late, to have been a more effectual mode of proceeding, than sporting in the dowery fields of dignified eloquence that marks a genius by the exuberance of his fancy.—*But look to the effect.*—In Massachusetts the election should have exhibited a different face, and would if there had been proper exertions and explanations; they have been impressed with the idea of *anticommercial* instead of a war-spirit.—By such means as these local discontents are made to combine physical force. In New-York there is great disaffection, and a desire to produce embarrassment, under the garb of conciliation and meekness, which, humble as it is, professes to be, Gov. Tomkins' high handed measures will not put down, unless it receives the sanction of De Witt Clinton, who must know why and for what? Already do they boast an "amalgamation of parties, in that state by a treaty of alliance, which will secure individual greatness, and render state opposition more formidable;" in return for which there must be a mixed course of policy to favor commercial interest. In Connecticut & Rhode Island "*no change is necessary.*" Many other states are hard pressed in their political relations from an unsettled course of policy "which maketh the heart sick," by alternately holding up hope and fear to their view; great exertion will be made to excite jealousy and create geographical instead of political distinctions.—The delegation from Pennsylvania, as far as can be ascertained, are for war measures—create a contrary belief among them as regards our rulers & they stand on ticklish ground—not indeed from their own measures, but others which have been forced upon them by the Senate, who have particularly dictated every important measures which has been adopted this session, regardless of the recommendations of the President, approved by the House. We have never expected that any system would be adopted that would meet our approbation—but we determined to give our support to those which should be resolved on if we could possibly reconcile them to our feelings, though we have not had the same solicitude for the system now demanded by the crisis, the delay of which has certainly been unexpected to us after it was decided that we had *cause of war*, and that we must resist by force—yet we have a solicitude, and a lively anxiety for the prosperity of our republican government, administered principally by honest, high-minded and honorable men, who have endured many trials for their adherence to maxims and measures. For these reasons we are not disposed to take exception however successful we might be, to measures if it must eventuate to the prejudice of those we esteem, who at this time stand on *deceitful ground*, supported by a calculation of interest, that holds up its head as the proper authority to controul the more noble and worthy. And it is with regret that we express our belief that a system is on foot, growing out of, and taking advantage of the discontents produced from our present situation of affaire, which has already grown so bold as to speak out; if suffered to mature it will become formidable, indeed it is so already. *Herald.*

MORE MAN STEALING.

Mr. Wilson,

I send you for publication the letter of an American seaman who has been six years detained on board an English man of war. His wife and family are here, they often correspond with him at the extremity of the U. States; and as you see have received this letter from within our own bay, almost in sight of his desired home and from whence he was borne away again.

If there is a man, not in America only, but in the world whose blood does not boil at such injury and oppression, may he be seized by villains and made to serve them till he acquires the feelings of a man.

Yours, &c.

J. M.

Hampton Roads, July 24, 1811

Once more, my dear Henrietta! I come very near you and still not a bit the better am I for it, is it possible that we must be so long separated, and can no thing be done to join us together again? Little did I suppose when I left you last, that we should have been so long from each other, but you see how misfortunes will happen. We are now from Hallifax where we only stayed a few days and there I received a letter from you to which I returned no answer knowing that we should come here and I should be nearer you. There is one thing, which, if you do right, may be the means of getting me clear; as soon as you receive this, apply to some body that writes well, and write a petition to Herbert Sawyer, esq. admiral of the station, tell him that although you sent me my discharge and protection, Capt. Hickey still refuses to let me go. I will on my side do the same, and perhaps it will do some good.

Let your letter be well wrote and demand the liberty of your husband, I have no doubt but the admiral will take it in to consideration and desire captain Hickey to let me go. Since I wrote you my last the captain has discharged four Americans, two of which had been four years in the service and one had taken the king's bounty. So it is a plain proof that it is nothing keeps me but the captain's own will.

I don't know how long we shall stay here, if I thought we should stay any time, I would desire you to return me an answer here but you had better send it to Halifax, for my stay here is very uncertain, and I am sure to get your letters in Halifax; I hope that you have received the lettor I sent you from here last by Mr. White, and if so you are well informed of my situation.

Let it be as it will, I hope that before long I will have the satisfaction to see you. Capt Hickey the other day asked me the reason I did not send for you to come and live in Halifax or on board the ship where you might be always with me, my answer was, that I did not wish you by any means to leave your home and family to join me on board of man of war. No my dear Henrietta, I would seoner undergo the utmost misery by myself than see you exposed to the least danger with me, I can wait a little longer with patience but I'll never desire you to do any thing against my inclination in that respect.

Do not neglect the petition I desire you to send to the admiral have it wrote immediately and direct it to Herbert Sawyer, esq. rear admiral of the Red, Hallifax. Write to me likewise and inform me how you all are at home, I am very anxious to know how Mrs. Cooper is as you told me in your last that she had been very ill.

I have no more to tell you at present all I know is that we shall stay here a few days, and if I was certain how long, it would be very possible for you to come down and see me, for I should be very glad to see you and tell you a great many things that I cannot send you in writing, but our stay here is very uncertain, it may be 3 or 4 days perhaps a week, and unless you found an opportunity of coming down directly you receive this, you would be too late and lose your trouble, the best way is to send me a letter, if you can, by the first vessel that comes down, I may be here long enough to receive it. Adieu my dear, remember me, and believe that my present unhappy situation has not in the least altered my mind and that I still remain for ever your loving and tender husband.

THOMAS WAIT.

My kind love to Mr. and Mrs. Cooper and William Biss, my dear Kitty for me and her son; remember me to your brother and sister, and all your friends, and tell them I'll be no longer from them than I can help.

The pilot we have now on board is one of Baltimore, he'll carry you himself a letter from me. *Sun.*

SENTENCE

By Chief Justice Taylor, on Edward Tinker, Mariner, for the murder of a boy called Edward, at Carteret, (North Carolina) Superior Court, Sept. 1811.

Edward Tinker—It is not my wish to add a single pang to those torments of remorse, which must already afflict you, if your heart is yet alive to any moral or humane sensation. But most ardently do I desire, to awaken your mind to a full conviction of the enormity of the crime you have committed; in order that you employ the remnant of life that is left you, in imploring forgiveness of Him, whose merciful dispensation will not be withheld from those, who sincerely perform the condition on which pardon is promised.

It is an afflictive spectacle, to behold in your situation a man, who in the strength of his years, and lately surrounded by every blessing that could heighten the rational enjoyments of life or mitigate its evils;—a faithful and affectionate wife—an innocent and rising offspring—most worthy and respectable friends—and ample means of support—has rashly sacrificed them all to an inordinate desire of wealth!

Not satisfied with the rewards justly due to honest industry and useful labor, you formed the unworthy design of making a large and sudden addition to your stock, by practising a fraud upon the insurers of your vessel. For this purpose you caused her to be run ashore and sunk; prevailed on your crew to join you in falsely swearing to a Protest, which stated her to have been lost by stress of weather; & the more effectually to give credit to this account, it was added that two men were drowned. One witness of the transaction remained, who, happily for the peace of his soul, being unpoluted with perjury, had no personal motive to conceal your dishonest views from the world, after he should have left your employment. You flattered yourself that his destruction would effectually secure you from detection, and efface all vestiges of your crime; thus by a regulation of iniquity you were prompted to commit murder.—Oh! that the young, the inconsiderate, and the wordly minded would be instructed by the dreadful example you furnish, how dangerous is the first departure from honesty and truth! how important it is to resist the first impulse of our passions; how naturally one crime generates another, until the greatest, man can commit against his brother, closes the climax of guilt in ignominy and death!

The youthful and ill feated victim of your cruelty—a stranger in our land, and widely separated from his natural connections, was cast under your protection by this destiny which is incident to a sea faring life. To you alone while he remained in your service, could he look for assistance & support; to foster him with parental care and guard him with parental anxiety, were duties, resulting from the relation in which you stood to him. Dissatisfied however, with your behavior towards him, or willing perhaps to increase the little earnings by which he assisted a widowed mother, and her fatherless children, he sought other employment, and had actually engaged to leave you in a very short time. This design was no sooner communicated to you than you resolved upon his destruction which from that moment your mind seems to have been fatally bent upon.

In a house dedicated in the worship of the Almighty! in the midst of fervent supplications offered by humble piety to the throne of Grace, for pity to human frailty, & pardon to human sin! in a scene every way calculated to recall the mind to a scene of its duties, and awaken in the heart its duties, and awaken in the heart its charitable sympathies, you must have brooded over this act of murder! You were maturing in your soul a purpose of deep and unrelenting cruelty whilst your tongue uttered the praises of a God of Mercy! The innocent & unsuspecting youth was asleep under the safe guard of your own roof, where he had a claim to those rights of hospitality, which are held sacred even by the untutored savage. In the dead hour of the night you called him from his repose, lulled him into a belief that he was to accompany you on some occasion of business or amusement, and having conducted him to a sequestered spot whence even his dying groans, had he uttered any, could not have been heard by the world—without allowing him a moment to offer up a last prayer to his Maker, with unpitying deliberation you put him to death! For a crime of such aggravated guilt, marked as it is, with fraud in its origin—with perjury in its progress—and innocent blood in its termination you cannot reasonably hope for pardon in this world; for clemency extended to you might well be considered as cruelty to the whole community.

Let me then, unhappy man! earnestly admonish you that all such hopes are worse than vain, since they would divert your mind from the more important concern of making your peace with an offended God and of preparing your soul for the tribunal of omnipotence. You must now seek for succour in the promises, the hopes & conlations of that religion, which I fear you have hitherto employed only as a disguise, under which you might gratify without suspicion, the worst passions of your nature. Would that its genuine influence had reached your heart and influenced your life; for piety to God cannot but produce beneficence to man I conjure you then, to banish at once from your mind the concerns and solicitudes of this world, your connections with which must soon be dissolved forever. You have a great work to perform and but a short time to perform it in. Employ every hour in self abasement & humiliation—in earnest prayer and sincere contrition The glad tidings of the gospel may administer the balm of peace and comfort to your wounded spirit, if, by unfeigned repentance, you tender yourself worthy of forgiveness, who delighteth not in the death of a sinner, but in his convertion It remains only for me to discharge the last painful duty of my office, by pronouncing the sentence of the law, which is, that you be taken hence to the goal whence you were brought, and thence to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck till you are dead. And may God have mercy on your soul!

WILKINSON'S DEFENCE, &c.

From an Alexandria Paper.

We have been furnished by a respected friend with the following extract of a letter from Frederick Town, Maryland, containing a summary of the trial of Gen. Wilkinson, together with the conclusion of his defence, which we feel it a duty we owe the public to lay before them.

FREDERICK TOWN, 10th Dec. 1811.

Dear Sir,

Your letter came in good time to remind me of my promise of presenting for your information the trial going on here as soon as concluded, as it reached this place the very day the court martial broke up—The opportunity I had of knowing the whole affair, widened by the General's confidential communication with me upon every topic which came into view and my perusal of his defence before delivery, done at his request, enables me to give to you a just view of his case, which I will do with all possible brevity.

You recollect the charges—Spanish pension—Burr's conspiracy, & the mortality of the troops in 1809, ascribed to his disobedience of orders, by his occupation of the position of Terre au Beeuf, near New Orleans instead of ascending the Mississipi and taking post on its high grounds near Fort Adams, considered peculiarly salubrious.

With respect to the first charge, it appeared in evidence that the privations of the inhabitants of Kentucky, of whom Gen. Wilkinson was one, in consequence of the impracticability of exporting the products of their labor, as the mouth of the only river leading from their country to the ocean was shut by the Spaniards who possessed N. Orleans & the adjacent Territory, & whose government interdicted trade either with themselves or others.

In this humiliating and comfortless condition, Gen. Wilkinson, pressed by the common wants and urged by his high minded spirit of esterprize, determined to make an effort to change the sore state of things. He sent a small adventure down the river—it was seized by the Spanish officers on arrival at N. Orleans. He nevertheless, persevering in his determination, followed his boat, and by his address and vigor contrived to gain permission from the Spanish government to carry on a limited trade.

The Kentuckians were rejoiced at the success of their fellow citizen, and the permitted commerce although limited, was at that juncture most comfortable in its effects to the newly settled district.

Wilkinson himself chiefly profited, as was natural to expect—He proved incontestibly that this commerce gave 80,000 dollars; a much larger sum than his alledged bribe and pensions amounted to—a balance or this money became due unexpectedly from the recovery of tobacco supposed to be damaged, after Wilkinson had quitted the trade, and the occasional trade payments when made gave rise to the fable of "pension" which the subsequent malice of a few enemies aided by art and intrigue contrived to fix in the public mind as a fact.

The attempt to convert a mere farce, into reality, was powerfully abetted by the necessary secrecy with which all Wilkinson's arrangements with the Spanish officers had been necessarily conducted. In permitting the trade the Spanish policy had been suspended, and no doubt the Spanish officers found their interest in this. But to obtain justification with their government many pretexts and devices must be formed and rendered current, or they would be subjected to enquiry and punishment. The most profound secrecy not only then became indispensable for their security, but any coloring they might choose to give with a view to their own safety to Wilkinson's secrets and connexion, was cheerfully admitted by the General, anxious only to perpetuate the licenced trade and regardless of idle, and in one sense, useful fictions, the falsehood of which we knew, and never could suppose that even at any future period could be turned to his injury among his own countrymen.

Who could have supposed it possible that a people enjoying a most desirable boon through the exertions of an individual could ever have become the dupes of their own credulity, by sanctioning the perversion of trifling attendant circumstances when devised by malice and art, and levelled against the fame of their benefactor. Yet this has taken place in the case of General Wilkinson; and had he not been brought before a military tribunal, most probably the unjust suspicions and cruel allegations would have haunted his reputation to its latest hour. As it is, I believe not a man who has attended the trial, except a few desperate witnesses, remains unconvinced, and who does not wonder at his own folly in accrediting for a time the profligate associates of Clarke and his associations.

The 2d charge, viz. Burr's conspiracy, had not even the shadow of appearance to justify it. It appeared in evidence never to be questioned, that a long & sincere friendship had prevailed between them, begun in the revolutionary war and continued in all subsequent vicissitudes to the mysterious descent of Burr down the Mississippi. That after Burr's unwarrantable duel with one of the best and most usrful of our countrymen, [!] gen. Hamilton, and his consequent exile from his state, Wilkinson, always ardent in the cause of his friends, exerted his influence to get Burr elected to Congress—this conduct, although as far as the testimony goes, unmixed with any other view, has been ushered by Clarke and his associates to to excite suspicions unfavorable to Wilkinson, and on it as a basis, have the art and malice of the General's enemies erected a superstructure chapped with the charge of treason.

But the baseless fabric tumpled to the ground when assailed by the batteries of truth, and has buried in its ruins Clarke, Power and their malignant associates. It has been made [illegible] the noon day sun by convincing and [illegible] testimony, that from the moment general Wilkinson was apprized of colonel Burr's probable intentions, he exerted himself by stratagem to discover his plan and his coadjutors, and prepared to resist with arms every step that Burr might take in the consummation of his designs.

Happily for the United States and many innocent though deluded individuals Burr's plan was crushed in its beginning, and a civil war probably was thus arrested. By whom? By the very man who from that hour to this day, has been assailed publicly and privately in the most virulent and outrageous manner. Relieved at length, it is to be hoped that gratitude and reward will hereafter distinguish him.

The last charge, like the two first, was soon dissipated by the unequivocal and full testimony which the prisoner advanced. Not only did he prove that his orders contemplated the defence of New Orleans, but he proved that in his selection of a position for the army, he combined in the most effective manner with the primary object, the preservation of the health of the troops. He showed that he had saved large sums of the public money by his arrangements in the execution of his duty, & that the season being uncommonly sickly, no personal efforts of toil, vigilance or exposure of his own health was omitted in fulfilment of a duty evidently dear to his heart.

Since the elevation of the late President to the Chair of State, the spirit of change and the substitution of theoretical for practical knowledge which distinguished him and his administration extended itself to the army. The quarter master general's department was proved to a mere shadow, and the citizens stiled military agents without military rank or responsibility, were appointed to do the duties performed in good old times by the quarter master general and his staff——These military agents were independent of the commanding general and responsible only to the war minister.

Thus money could be withheld, however necessary, by the military agent, nor was it possible for the commanding officer to prescribe a remedy for the evil, without resort to the war department, more than a thousand miles distant. The Jeffersonian change of system was rigidly executed, so much so, that his war minister actually forbade the chief agent from authorising advances of money which might exceed 40 dollars.

It followed, that the responsibility of the commander was transferred to the Secretary of War, and with this mutation of responsibility were sown the seeds which yielded such an abundant crop of derangement and insubordination that ensued on the shores of the Mississippi.

When disease visited our camp the fatal consequences of the certain effects of the change in our military system spread far and wide, nor could the commanding general draw to himself efficient aid to resist or mitigate effectually the destructive sickness, in as much as the present Secretary of War had exactly conformed him to the new regime.

Had the commanding general been authorised, as was formerly the case to require without reserve every article necessary for his sick soldiers, it appeared very plain that the afflicting mortality which took place, might have been considerably restricted.

Or if the Secretary of War had never ceased to confide in his general, and had left the army to his uncontrouled care, instead of directing at his distance from the scene of action, (although from the best motives) its ascent up the river in its then state and at the most pestilential season, no doubt was entertained by the generality who heard the testimony offered to the court by the prisoner, that we should not have had cause to lament the heavy loss of lives which thereafter followed.

In the course of the prisoner's defence, which will be read with interest by all, an unsubdued spirit dominated, manifesting his own consciousness of innocence, his confidence in the independence and intelligence of the court martial, and his thorough reliance on the justice of the president, putting at defiance Clarke, Power, and his host of enemies; inviting the strictest and most comprehensive scrutiny into his conduct, and contrasting his ruined, degraded condition, with that which as grateful, liberal and just policy, ought to have bestowed. Every where you find flashes of eloquence, and occasionly bursts of indignation.

A colonel Smythe is among the first that his rage falls upon, but he seems to have passed over this gentleman lightly, reserving him, as he suggests for further enquiry. The lieutenant colonels Freemen and Backus, and Major Darrington, next engage his attention, and they are lashed severely. The lieutenant colonel B. and the major appear robed in the full spread mantle of ignominy. At length brigadier general Hampton is introduced; his conduct as respects the prisoner is spread before you, accompanied with syllogistic and cutting conclusions. Then follows his *finale*, the whole of which is copied, with the general's permission, and added to this letter, as the best way of gratifying urgent enquiry.

Mr. President, and

Gentlemen of the Court,

If in this voluminous appeal to your judgment, rendered necessary by the extent, variety and complication of the charges, under which I stand before you, I have deviated from the respect which I owe to myself, and which I feel for you, individually and collectively, I shall ever deplore it as a misfortune.

If the expositions, which the occasion has extorted from me, bear hard upon the feelings of any one, I will refer him to my general orders, to his own breast, and the outrageous calumnies which have been pointed at my immortal part, and after such appeal I am persuaded no candid man will murmur against me. If I have treated some witnesses with derision, and others with severity, if I have animadverted freely on men and things, let it be imputed to the sensibilities of a mind agonizing under misfortune & privations the most poignant, and to the keenest sense of the lingering and incessant persecutions by which I have been harrassed, from the hour I proclaimed my opposition to Burr and his traitorous associates, now more than five years since.

You have witnessed, gentlemen, the inequality between the accuser and the accused on the enquiry. To support myself against all the weight of this prosecution, my penury and powerless condition left me almost without resource. It was the sense of this inequality which caused my mind to revolt against the proposition for a General-Court-Martial, when first mentioned to me; and it was the dreadful prospect of endless suspence, which induced me, afterwards, to seek it with solicitude. The dignity, the patience, and the candor of this court, throughout this painful and protracted enquiry, is a sure pledge of the sacred respect to justice by which it is animated; and these demonstrations of an equitable disposition, establish the strongest claim to my gratitude.

Gentlemen, if in the course of this examination a single instance has been proved wherein I have been guilty even of an omission of duty, then let your denunciation be heavy upon me. But if on the contrary it should appear to you, that my life has been zealously and faithfully devoted to the service of our common country, then I feel well assured your award will minister consolation to this long afflicted bosom; and by restoring to me my sword and my honor, that you will enable me to mingle my efforts with your own in the rightful war, to the threshhold of which our government appears at this moment to have approached.

In the dawn of manhood I dedicated myself to the defence of my country—In the decline of life I trust, with a full reliance in your justice, gentlemen, that I shall not be deemed unworthy to die in its service.