From the Sun, of the 10th of March, received at this office.

IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, March 9.

HIS MAJESTY's MESSAGE.

[*Debate concluded.*]

Mr. Sheridan said, that there was something very extraordinary in the speech of the right honorable gentleman who had just sat down. That right honorable member had stated, that he might feel an extreme reluctance in agreeing to a war at present, that he had been a vehement opposer of the peace, and that by being so, he was necessarily reluctant to our now going to war. He understood the right honorable gentleman by this to mean, that this country had, by agreeing to the peace, incapacitated itself from going to war. The right honorable gentleman had also said, that we were not now able to renew the war; he had even stated, that we were not now able to defend ourselves. Such language had certainly been held by the first consul of France, but he did not expect to hear it re-echoed by any member of the British house of commons. This country had observed great moderation and forbearance, in order to maintain peace, but if repeated insults and provocations rendered it necessary for us to go to war, single-handed as we were, yet he had the most perfect confidence that we should be able to convince France that we were capable of supporting our honor and dignity, and that each individual in this country would be ready to follow the illustrious example of his royal highness the prince of Wales, in determining to forego every consideration of personal convenience or accomdation, when the interest of the country was at stake, and with fortitude and magnanimity to preserve the country in that state which he was sure had not been injurjured by our moderation.

Mr. Windham said, that the honorable gentleman had imputed to him that which he had never said, for he had given no decided opinion whether this country ought to go to war or not.

Mr. Canning said, it was highly necessary, whether the result was war or peace, that the house should know if the explanation given this day was all the explanation the house and the country were to have. He waited till that moment, because he was not willing to suppose the existence of any disability on the part of his majesty's ministers to give a proper explanation, till after a full opportunity had been afforded them. It had been said by the chancellor of the exchequer, that in the event of war, the fullest explanation should be made; but that was not sufficient; it was necessary the ground of this most alarming communication should be explained to its very foundation. It was a measure, compared with which, any thing in his memory was trifling and unimportant—it had alarmed and agitated the minds of all the people of the country, and yet he had not heard that [illegible] the cause which produced it was to be laid before the house. He did not mean to detain the house with commenting upon the message of his majesty, but it did seem to him to be hard to be thus dealing with the feelings of a generous people. It was not that degree of communication which ought to exist between the executive government and the people. There had been shewn in the two feverish and anxious years which had last passed, that there had been a docility in the minds of the people to adopt the impression of the executive government. Those feelings ought not to be met by a reserve, which he would venture to say the most despotic government never maintained towards the most enslaved people. He did not believe there ever was an event in the world, which had produced a greater sensation than the one announced yesterday, or one which had ever been less expected. If it should announce, that a communication would, at all events be made, and that it was intended to be sufficient, ample, and satisfactory; in such case, the few observations he had made would have been thrown away. He had waited with impatience, but had heard the intention of a communication to parliament announced only in the event of one alternative. Not that it could make the least alteration as to the vote, limited and understood as it was; he only meant to infer that it was not a proper mode to be adopted towards the country, considering the uniform declarations of its loyalty.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, in explanation, alluded to what had fallen from a right honorable member (Mr. Canning), who had stated, that no information had been promised to the house, except in the alternative of war, and that no communication would have been made, but in that event. He begged leave to state, that he had given no pledge whatsoever; but this he would say, that whatever might be the event, he disdained the reserve which had been imputed to him, and that he never would withold any communication from Parliament upon any subject relative to the public interest, which might be communicated with a due regard to that interest.

Mr. T. Grenville rose, to make a few observations upon what had fallen from a right honorable gentleman respecting the answer which had been given by the minister. He admitted that, which he was very sure was felt by every member in that house, that upon such a subject as this there ought to be no dissenting voice, but a question had been put to the ministers, whether, in any alternative, except that of war, they intended to lay any information before the house? To this question the answer was, that no pledge whatever had been given upon the subject. Now he could not help observing, that the very mode in which this answer had been given, was a satisfactory justification of the honorable member who had put the question. Having said thus much, he begged to observe, that no man was more unwilling to enter into any discussion whatever that could operate to retard, or even to throw a shade upon the resolution which had been proposed. He did feel a great deal of embarrassment on his mind as to the ignorance in which the house was placed on this occasion; for when government proposed to the house an address, which the right honorable gentlemen had described as containing no pledge whatsoever, yet the house must be supposed to be pledged in the customary manner to the facts to which they assented. He could not help remarking, that if on the one hand unanimity was felt to be so desirable, yet on the other the effect of it would be considerably lessened in the eyes of all mankind, if the present vote did not convey the tangible opinion of every man in that house: for so it must be, when the house voted an address without any information respecting facts. With these few remarks he should conclude, assuring the house that there was no man in it more ready or eager than he was to carry up to the throne the answer contained in the present address. His mind was certainly impressed with sentiments of great anxiety upon this subject, but he trusted that the measures now proposed would be of a nature to produce peace and tranquility.

The attorney-general said, he could not be surprized that any gentleman who concurred in the vote should wish to lay in his protest against giving any pledge as to the future sentiments he might think proper to adopt. He thought nothing could be more reasonable, than that at a time when a message of this sort was bro't from the throne, and when the house was called upon to express its thanks for the gracious communication, those gentlemen who were of opinion the statement was not sufficient to justify the war, should lay in their claim to express their sentiments, whatever they might be, on a future occasion; but he could not help thinking, that the house had no reason to deem itself hardly dealt with, by information being kept back, when in fact, no information had been called for, and when the question to be considered was only a communication from the throne, stating there were certain measures which rendered it necessary for us to make defensive preparations and hold ourselves on our guard, and when it was expresly stated too, that a satisfactory communication would, in due time be made to parliament. The honorable member who had last spoke had said the message seemed to augur well, because it manifested a disposition to exertion; but he thought he might as well have spared that observation: it inferred, that no conclusion the house should adopt could be too violent. With respect to what had fallen from a right honorable gentleman behind him (Mr. Canning) he answered him a little anticipated of his the disposition he had anticipated of his withholding any communication upon the subject. There had been no disposition expressed by his majesty's ministers, that in the event of war being unnecessary, no information would be laid before the house. Whether such information should be laid before it, must depend upon circumstances. When it was pressed for, if it was withheld, it would be in the power of any member to demand it, and the house, if it thought proper, would enforce its production. He would not prolong the debate, except by mentioning one circumstance. The honorable gentleman he had mentioned seemed to have recurred to the opinion he had expressed, respecting the calamities produced by the conclusion of the definite treaty of peace of Amiens, on the ground that it was calculated to promote a war; and that, in the event of this country going to war, we should be so crippled, that the circumstance of having had peace would be attended with the effect of rendering a future war more difficult. He wholly disagreed with him. He maintained, that the opinion of the people at large, going along with the opinion of government, upon a question so important as the present one, was infinitely more to be considered than the precise state of the proportion of military force, referring to the period when the peace was concluded. If it should ultimately turn out that this country should be obliged to renew hostilities, the government, he had no doubt, would be able to state to the house, that those hostilities had not been provoked, and that they could not, by any proper, temperate, and honorable conduct, be prevented. If his majesty's ministers should lay before the house this state of the case, he was persuaded that the spirit of the country would be in unison with that which actuated his majesty's ministers—and that the absolute necessity of renewing hostilities, would give more strength, vigor, and energy to those which should be undertaken, than could possibly be imparted, by preserving the exact military position of a particular period. He trusted the house would think the question was left open to discussion, and that whatever the measures of government had been, they would be fully inquired into. He hoped parliament and the country would not be too fond of peace—an unstable, delusive peace. He trusted they would not be induced to think, that nothing short of an attack on the country would justify hostilities. He flattered himself they would bring their minds temperately to the discussion of the subject, & to the consideration of—whether his majesty's ministers had acted wisely in taking the course they had done with regard to both these points. He was persuaded there could be no material difference of opinion on general grounds; and respecting the question immediately before the house, nothing was proposed, than that supposing the case to be exactly as it was stated in his majesty's message, the house should pledge itself thus far and no farther; that it should admit it to be a case which justified military preparations, but nothing more. If afterwards it should appear that the circumstances and situation of the country did not justify the present application, it would properly be a subject for future consideration. To give his majesty an assurance of our determination to guard against surprise, was all the house was at present called upon to do: he trusted, therefore, there could be no reasonable ground of complaint on the one hand, and that on the other there would be no reluctance in giving further information.

The question was put, and carried in the affirmative. *Nemine contradicente.*

ADDITION OF SEAMEN.

The chancellor of the Exchequer gave notice, that on Friday next, in the committe of Supply, he should move for an increase of 10,000 seamen and marines.

NORFOLK, April 28.

Entered, ship Le Fanny, Doude, Cape-Francois; schooner Two Brothers, Walker, Baltimore; Hope, Ripley, New-York; Eliza, Webb, Philadelphia: sloop Esther and Catharine, Newbold, Bermuda; Two Friends, Dickerson, do.

Cleared, ship L'Andelle, Deslandes, Barcelona; London Packet, Simon, Hamburg; brig Mars, Cook, Baltimore; sloop Favorite, Avery, St. Thomas's.

PETERSBURG, April 22.

The following was communicated to us by a friend in the county of Brunswick:

"It will probably not be amiss to inform the public of the singular case of the death of two white women, which happened last Friday night, the 15th instant, within a few miles of my house, in Brunswick, both of the name of DANIEL. The first was a little advanced in life, the other a healthy and handsome girl about 15 or 16 years of age. The day before the solemn event was discovered, the two women, in perfect health, had made an excursion from home, and were overtaken by night on their return, but still had advanced in the dark so far as to get within forty or fifty yards of their dwelling; and there, for some cause unknown to us, sat down side and side, and made their cold and icy bed. Both were discovered in the morning by the darling son of the eldest, and as he approached the gloomy spot, found that death had done his office, and the lifeless corpse separated from each other by one single tobacco hill. An inquest being taken, and a very particular examination made on so extraordinary an occurrence, no possible discovery could be made of any violence, either by themselves or any one else. No surmise can yet be made what produced the mortal change, unless the stupidity of fright, the exertions of the day, and the inclemency of the night, should have all combined to strike the fatal stroke"

BY THIS DAY's MAILS.

NEW-YORK, May 2.

LATE FROM PARIS.

Extract of a letter from Paris of the 18th of March, via Bordeaux and Boston, to a merchant of this city.

"You may be assured that no war will take place between England and France, at least, for some time."

On the subject of American claims, the writer observes, "That our minister has assurances from government, that we shall all be paid soon; in consequence, all are making up their claims, with interest, to this day."

Captain Phelps, of the ship Hope, from Bristol (contrary to our expectation) brings no later London papers than we have already received. He left Bristol on the 22d March, and the Roads on the 24th. He informs us that he saw a paper of the 21st, which he neglected to bring with him; but that it did not contain any thing decisive on the important question of peace or war.

Arrived on Saturday, the regular trading ship Hope, captain Phelps, in 35 days from Bristol.

Sailed in company, the brig Nancy, Brown, for Boston; and the same day, from Lundy Island, the ship Black River, Gallup, for New-York—and saw her on the 29th March. Left at Bristol, ship Rising States, Lockwood, to sail for New-York in four days; ship Lewis, Orr, in ten days for Boston; and ship Sally, of Kennebeck; and ship Cornelia, M'Cullum, in ten days for Philadelphia. Spoke, March 28, in lat. 49, long. 12, 30, ship Mercury, 31 days from Baltimore for Bremen. April 15, in lat. 46, long. 35, a ship from Liverpool for Portland.

Captain Phelps informs, that on Thursday last, he saw a brig high and dry on the back of Long-Island, about 40 miles from the Hook.

Arrived yesterday, the brig Hunter, Lumsden, in 32 days from St. Vincents. Left sloop George and Jane, Sillick, to sail in 7 days for New-York; brig Margaret, M'Clain, for Portland, in 9 days; brig Lucretia, Ripley, of Hartford. Spoke April 13, in lat. 23, long. 65, a brig from Kingston, Jamaica, for Savannah. Flour eight dollars, pork 18, beef 15, lumber 26 dollars per M. white oak staves 24 dollars per M.

Same day, the English brig Harmony, Hunt, in 16 days from Bermuda.

The pilot of the Hope informs, that a brig from London for this port, (which he understood was the Trifene) possibly the Virginia, is on shore at Shark river, just to the southward of the High Lands.

P. S This is the brig we suspected.—Since writing the above, we have seen a letter from captain Daubeny, of the brig Virginia, of the 29th ult. He mentions that the Virginia went on shore about one o'clock that morning—that she had received no damage, and that if the weather should continue favorable, she would be got off after lightening her.

There was a ship below last night—The weather extremely foggy.

The ship Cheeseman, Greenfield, from hence, has arrived at the Texel; and the ship Charleston, from do. at Liverpool.

Cleared, ships Atlantic, Chew, Liverpool; Logan, Macey, do brigs Jemima and Fanny, Gladd, Cowes and a market; New-York, Pelor, Bordeaux; schr. Lark, Cronk, St. John's, N. B.

When the British house of commons, March 11th, voted 10,000 additional seamen, in consequence of his majesty's second message, 50,000 having been already voted, it also voted the following sums—603,500l. sterling for wages for said additional seamen; 19,000l. for victuals, 33,000l. for wear and tear of ships, 27,000l. for ordnance for said ships.

The house of commons has voted four guineas a head as a bounty for recruits to the militia of Ireland.

Our papers state that Bonaparte frequently summons his ministers and counsellors at the most unseasonable hours of the night. Sometimes, after dismissing them at one o'clock, they will be again called from their beds at two; and his demands, always imperious, must be obeyed on the instant---indisposition is not in general admitted as an excuse.

PHILADELPHIA, May 3.

Arrived, ship Fox, Cooke, Bolton, 10 days; brig Belair, Sparrow, N. Carolina, 16; Newton, Rielley, Corunna, 40.

Cleared, schr. Regulator, Hawkins, N. Orleans and Natchez.

Arrived, brig Newton, Rielley, 40 days from Corunna. Sailed from thence in company with the brig West Point, M'Greggar, of Philadelphia, for Ferrol.

Left at Corunna,

Ship Betsy, Swain, of and for Baltimore, to sail in 14 days, repairing.

Brig Nancy, Burk, of Philadelphia, discharging, for St. Ubes, to sail in 14 days.

On the 22d April, lat. 39, 45, N. long. 66, 10, W spoke the ship Columbia, Bryant, of Boston, from Charleston for Amsterdam, out 12 days, with the loss of her fore-top-mast and main-top-gallant-mast.

Brig Success, ——, from Martinique, is below.

The ship Martha, Henderson, sailed from Gravesend for this port, on the 18th March.

The Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia, that was on shore near Londonderry, is got off; and the Fair American, from Philadelphia, is on shore there—Lighters are gone to take in her cargo.

[*Lloyd's List, March 18.*]

ALEXANDRIA, May 3.

BERKELEY ELECTION.

Federalism triumphant!

On Monday last came on our election for a member of congress, one senator and two representatives in the state legislature. This being the last election in the congressional and senatorial district, every effort was made to get the voters out, and never perhaps, in this district, was discovered so much anxiety and such great exertions on both sides. In about six hours after the polls were opened, upwards of 500 votes were taken. The weather being unfavorable the polls were continued open for three days. Notwithstanding the strenuous and unremitting exertions of the democrats in this county, for more than four months past, the result has been such as might be expected from the steady habits of the people of Berkeley. The democrats counted with certainty on the election of one member to the assembly, and also on the representative to congress, but their calculations have proved fallacious! The splendor of the sun of federalism has completely obscured the *delusive* light of the moon of democracy, and this district has added another member to the congressional list of GENUINE REPUBLICANS from the state of Virginia.

At the close of the poll the votes stood as follow:

CONGRESS.		
Major James Stephenson,	384	
Osborn Sprigg,	262	
		122
In the other two counties, major Stephenson had a majority of		9
Federal majority in the district,		131
SENATE.		
Lewis Wolfe,	368	
George North,	267	
Federal majority in Berkeley,		101
STATE LEGISLATURE.		
James Campbell, esquire,	359	*Both true republicans.*
Magnus Tate, esquire,	357	
Mr. Joel Ward,	304	*Democrats.*
Mr. Erasmus Gantt,	267	
In Frederick, Mr. Wolfe had a majority of 457, & not 469, as stated before,		457
Majority in Jefferson for North,		15
		442
Majority in Hardy for Wolfe,		300
Do. in Hampshire,		31
Do. in Berkeley,		101
Do. in the district for Wolfe,		874

This is the same Mr. Wolfe, who opposed I. Washington at the last senatorial election, and had then nearly as many against him as he has now a majority in his favor. [*Martinsburg paper.*]

Arrived, brigs Glory, Gilbert, Barbados; Fame, Carlton, Newburyport; schooner May-Flower, Manran, Providence.

Cleared barque Henry, Trotter, Cork; ship Wells, Smith, Lisbon; brigs Leopard, Boundy, St. Andero; Lucy, Humphreys, Barbados; Harmony, Hall, Boston; schooner Friendship, Quandril, New-York.

FEDERAL GAZETTE.

WEDNESDAY, *May 4.*

A report was in circulation last evening, that the executive at Washington, has received official advice from London, later than any hitherto published, that the French ambassador had been ordered to quit the country, and that war was declared against France. We give this as we receive it, merely observing that neither the eastern nor southern mail confirms the report. The following is the latest London date we have seen:

LATE FROM LONDON.

The following important extract of a letter from London, we yesterday received from a commercial friend.

Extract of a letter from a respectable mercantile house in London, to a merchant in this city, dated the 21st March, 1803.

P. S. Since ours of the 7th, the political aspect of affairs has assumed a very serious appearance. It has been for some time past understood that considerable negociations were still pending between France and England—and on Tuesday, a severe press for seamen took place all over the United Kingdoms, which is still continued—and is supposed to have secured nearly 8000 already, and *in consequence* of repeated messages from the king to both houses of parliament (stating that very important negociations were still carrying on, and that Bonaparte had collected a large force, both in Flanders and Holland, as if to awe this country to submit to his *terms*, and that he wished the parliament to consider the subject)—*The militia* amounting to above 100,000 men have been called out in *aid of the regulars* and 10,000 more seamen rated in addition to the 50,000 seamen employed. A messenger was sent on Sunday to Bonaparte with the ultimatum of our court, which is believed to be that in consequence of the frequent infraction of the treaty of Amiens by the French in Switzerland and their annexing Piedmont and Parma to France, we felt authorised and determined to retain Malta, and to insist that New-Orleans and Louisiana shall be restored to Spain or given up to the United States of America, so that the navigation of the Mississippi shall on no account be left in the power of France. The effect this quarrel has had on the price of insurance you will see by my alterations in the price current." [*N. Y. paper.*]

From a correspondent.

THE cession of Louisiana to France has never been officially announced to the public, and doubts have been entertained by some, of such cession ever having been made. The following article, extracted from a treaty made between France and Spain, signed at Madrid on the 21st March, 1801, will shew beyond doubt, that such cession has actually taken place:

"As this treaty originates from that which has been concluded between the first consul and his Catholic majesty, and by which the king cedes to France the possession of Louisiana, the contracting parties agree to put in execution the articles of the former treaty, and to use their respective rights till the settlement of the differences mentioned in it."

This is the 5th article of the treaty made between France and Spain, respecting the possessions of the reigning duke of Parma and the dutchy of Tuscany, and concluded in March, 1801, and not published till 1802, no doubt for the obvious reason, that the parties did not wish the cession of Louisiana to be known until peace was made between France and Great-Britain.

The views of France in wishing to possess Louisiana, are both numerous and obvious. It will afford them a never-failing supply of lumber and provisions for their West-India possessions; it will give her great influence in, and control over the councils of America, by having the command of the Mississippi river, the only avenue by which the western world can find a mart for their produce; it will make her West-India possessions independent in their supplies from the American states, as they will be amply supplied from their own colony of Louisiana; it will enable her to extort from America commercial regulations advantageous to herself, and injurious to her rival, Great-Britain; it will enable her to prosecute war advantageously, against the United States, if she so wishes; and it will give her the opportunity of prosecuting any designs she may have on Mexico and Peru.

[The above was received last week, and we have to apologise to our correspondent for its not appearing before.]

Extract of a letter from a very intelligent person in the Creek nation, to a gentleman in Knoxville, dated February 11.

"The Little King of the Chickasaw-hays, has been at New-Orleans, and since his return he has introduced a talk among