AN ACCOUNT OF LOUISIANA,

Being an abstract of documents in the offices of the departments of state and of the treasury.

Of the officers of government.

[Continued from Saturday's Gazette.]

The Cabildo is an hereditary council of twelve, chosen originally from the most wealthy and respectable families. The governor presides over their meetings.—Their office is very honorable, but it is acquired by purchase. They have a right to represent and even to remonstrate to the governor, in respect to the interior government of the province. The police of the city, is under their control and direction. In it they regulate the admission of physicians and surgeons to practice. Two members of the Cabildo serve by turn monthly, and take upon themselves the immediate superintendance of markets, bakers, streets, bridges, and the general police of the city. This council distributes among its members several important offices, such as aguazil mayor, or high sheriff, alcalde provincial, procureur-general, &c. the last mentioned is a very important charge. The person who holds it is not merely the king's attorney, but an officer peculiar to the civil law. He does not always prosecute; but after conviction he indicates the punishment annexed by law to the crime, and which may be, and is mitigated by the court. Like the chancellor in the English system, he is the curator and protector of orphans, &c. and finally, he is the expounder of the law, the defender of the privileges belonging to the town, province or colony, and the accuser of every public officer that infringes them.

The Cabildo is also vested with a species of judicial authority, for which, and for a further elucidation of its constitution, and the functions of the officers springing from it, see the appendix, No 1.

The intendant is chief of the departments of finance and commerce, and exercises the judicial powers already mentioned. He is entirely independent of the governor, and no public monies can be issued without his express order. The land office is under his direction.

The Contador, treasurer and inteventor, are officers subordinate to the intendant.—The first has four clerks under him, and keeps accounts & all documents respecting the receipts and expenditure of the revenue, and is therefore a check upon the intendant. The treasurer is properly no more than a cashier, and is allowed one clerk. The interventor superintends all public purchases and bargains. The administrador is also subordinate to the intendant, and with a number of inferior officers, manages every thing respecting the custom-house. Every clerk in these offices receives his commission from the king.

The auditor is the king's counsel, who is to furnish the governor with legal advice in all cases of judicial proceedings, whether civil or military.

The assessor's functions are similar to those of the auditor, and are properly applicable to the intendant's department.

Both of the officers last mentioned, are also the counsellors of some of the other tribunals, as before intimated.

A secretary of the government and another of the intendency.

A surveyor-general.

A harbor master.

A store-keeper, who takes charge of all public moveable property.

An interpreter of the French and Spanish languages, and a number of other inferior officers.

All appointment in the province with a salary of more than thirty dollars per month are made by the king, and most of those with a lower salary by the governor or intendant as belongs to their respective departments. There are no officers chosen by the people.

The salaries and perquisites of the principal officers are as follow:

	P. salary	P. perquisites
Governor annually,	6,000	2,000
Intendant,	4,000	none.
Auditor,	2,000	2,000
Contador,	2,000	none.
Assessor,	1,200	1,000
Treasurer,	1,200	none.
Aministrador,	1,200	none.
Sec. of government,	600	2,000

The commandants of districts receive each 100 dollars from the king annually, unless they are possessed of a military employment or pension.

Taxes and duties.

Instead of paying local taxes, each inhabitant is bound to make and repair roads, bridges, and embankments through his own land.

A duty of six per cent. is payable at the custom-house, on the transfer of shipping. It is ascertained upon the sum, the buyer and seller declare to be the real consideration. As no oath is required from either, they seldom report more than half the price.

The following taxes are also payable in the province:

Two per cent. on leagacies and inheritances, coming from collaterals and exceeding 2,000 dollars.

Four per cent. on legacies given to persons who are not relatives of the testator.

A tax on civil employments, the salaries of which exceed 300 dollars annually, called *media annata*, amounting to half of the first year's salary. By certain officers, it is to be paid in two annual instalments, and by others in four. The first person appointed to a newly created office pays nothing, but the tax is levied on all who succeed him.

Seven dollars is deducted from the sum of 20 paid as pilotage by every vessel entering or leaving the Mississippi; but the treasury provides the boats, and pays the salary of the pilots and sailors employed at the Balize. The remainder of the 20 dollars is thus distributed: To the head pilot 4, to the pilot who is in the vessel 4, and 5 to the crew of the row-boat that goes out to put the pilot on board, or take him ashore.

A tax of 40 dollars per annum for licenses to sell liquors.

A tax on certain places, when sold, such as those of regidor, notary, attorney, &c.

But the prinipal tax is that of six per cent. levied on all imports and exports, according to a low tariff; the proceeds of which nett about 120,000 dollars, whilst all the other taxes are said not to yield more than 5 or 6000 dollars annually.

Expences and debt.

The expences of the present government comprehending the pay and support of the regiment of Louisiana, part of a battalion of the regiment of Mexico, a company of dragoons and one of artillery, which form the garrison of the country, including Mobille: the repairs of public buildings and fortifications; the maintenance of a few gallies to convey troops and stores throughout the province; Indian presents and salaries of officers, clergy and persons employed for public purposes, amount to about 650,000 dollars. A sum in specie, which does not generally exceed 400,000 dollars, is annually sent from Vera Cruz; but this, together with the amount of duties and taxes collected in the province, leaves usually a deficiency of one hundred or one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for which certificates are issued to the persons who may have furnished supplies, or to officers and workmen for their salaries. Hence a debt has accumulated, which, it is said, amounts at present to about 450,000 dollars. It bears no interest, and is now depreciated 30 per cent. The la ter circumstance has taken place, not from want of confidence in the eventual payment of the certificates, but from the uncertainty of the time when, and the want and general value of specie. The whole of this debt is said to be due to the inhabitants and to American residents. It would have been long since paid off, but for a diversion of the funds, destined for that purpose, to different and external objects.

Imports and Exports.

The productions of Louisiana are sugar, cotton, indigo, rice, furs and peltry; lumber, tar, pitch, lead, flour, horses and cattle. Population alone is wanting to multiply them to an astonishing degree. The soil is fertile, the climate salubrious, and the means of communication between most parts of the province certain and by water.

The following has been received as a sketch of the present exports of Louisiana, viz.

	Dollars.	
20,000 bales cotton, 3 cwt. each at 20 cents per lb.	1,344,000	increasing.
45,000 casks sugar, 10 cwt. each, at 6 cents per lb.	302,000	ditto
800 ditto molasses, 100 gallons each,	32,000	ditto
Indigo, - - - -	100,000	diminish'g rapidly.
Peltry, - - - -	200,000	
Lumber, - - - -	80,000	
Lead, corn, horses, cattle, uncertain,		
All other articles, suppose, - - -	100,000	
	2,158,000	

According to official returns in the treasury of the United States, there were imported into our territory, from Louisiana & the Floridas, merchandize to the following amounts, in the several years prefixed:

	Dollars,
In 1799 to the value of	507,132
1800 - -	904,322
1801 - - -	956,635
1802 - -	1,006,214

According to the same authority, which makes the total of the exports to amount to 2,158,000 dollars, the imports, in merchandize, plantation utensils, slaves, &c. amount to two and an half millions, the difference being made up by the money introduced by the government, to pay the expences of governing and protecting the colony.

According to the returns in the treasury of the United States, exports have been made to Louisiana and the Floridas, to the following amount in the years prefixed.

In 1799 to the value of
3,056,268 in foreign articles.
447,824 in domestic do.

Dollars 3,504,092

In 1800 { 1,795,127 in foreign articles. 240,662 in domestic do.

Dollars 2,035,789

In 1801 { 1,770,794 in foreign articles. 137,204 in domestic do.

Dollars 1,907,998

In 1802 { 1,054,600 in foreign articles. 170,110 in domestic do.

Dollars 1,224,710

It is to be observed that if the total of the imports and exports into and from these provinces, (of which the two Floridas are but a very unimportant part with respect to both,) be as above supposed, viz.

Imports,	2,500,000 dollars
Exports,	2,158,000
Making together,	4,658,000

The duty of six per cent. ought alone to produce the gross sum of two hundred seventy-nine thousand four hundred and eighty dollars, and that the difference between that sum and its actual nett produce, arises partly from the imperfect tariff by which the value of merchandize is ascertained, but principally from the smuggling, which is openly countenanced by most of the revenue officers.

Manufactures.

There are but few domestic manufactures. The Acadians manufacture a little cotton into quilts and cottonades; and in the remote parts of the province the poorer planters spin and weave some negro cloths of cotton and wool mixed. There is one machine for spinning cotton in the parish of Iberville, and another in the Opelousas; but they do little or nothing. In the city, besides the trades which are absolutely necessary, there is a considerable manufacture of cordage, and some small ones of shot and hair-powder. There are likewise in, and within a few leagues of the town, twelve distilleries for making taffia, which are said to distil annually a very considerable quantity; and one sugar refinery, said to make about 200,000 pounds of loaf-sugar.

Navigation employed in the trade of the province.

In the year 1802 there entered the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-eight vessels of all descriptions, eighteen of which were public armed vessels, and the remainder merchantmen, as follow, viz.

	American.	*Spanish.*	*French.*
Ships,	48	14	
Brigs,	63	17	1
Polacres,		4	
Schooners,	50	61	
Sloops,	9	1	
Total,	170	97	1

Of the number of American vessels, twenty-three ships, twenty-five brigs, nineteen schooners, and five sloops came in ballast, the remainder were wholly, or in part laden.

Five Spanish ships and seven schooners came in ballast. The united tonnage of all the shipping that entered the river, exclusive of the public armed vessels, was 33,725 register tons.

In the same year there sailed from the Mississippi two hundred and sixty-five sail, viz.

American.		*Tons.*	*Spanish.*	*Tons*
Ships,	40*	8,972	18	3,714
Brigs,	58	7,546	22*	1,944
Schooners,	52	4,346	58	3,747
Sloops,	8	519	3*	108
Polacres,	—	—	3*	240
	158	21,383	104	9,753

French.		*Tons.*	*Total.*		*Tons.*
Sch'rs.	3	105	Americans	158	21,383
	—	—	Spanish	104	9,753
			French	3	105
			Grand total,	265	31,241

* *One in ballast.*

The tonnage of the vessels which went away in ballast and that of the public armed ships, are not included in the foregoing account—these latter carried away masts, yards, spars, pitch, tar, &c. at least 1000 tons.

In the first six months of the present year, there entered the Mississippi 173 sail, of all nations, four of which were public armed vessels, viz. two French and two Spanish, whose tonnage is not enumerated.

	American.	*Tons.*	*Spanish.*	*Tons.*	*French.*	*Tons.*
Ships,	23	5,396	14	3,080	5	1,002
Brigs,	44	5,701	20	2,173	8	878
Polacres,			3	480	2	436
Sch'rs.	22	1,899	18	1,187	7	488
Sloops,	4	278	3	167		
Total,	93	13,264	58	7,087	22	2,804

Total of ships.		*Total of tons.*
American,	93	13,264
Spanish,	58	7,087
French,	22	2,804
Grand total,	173	23,155

In the same six months there sailed from the Mississippi one hundred and fifty-six vessels, viz.

	American.	*Spanish.*	*French.*
Ships,	21	18	2
Brigs,	28	31	1
Polacres,		4	
Schooners,	17	26	5
Sloops,	2	1	
	68	80	8

Coasting Trade.

There is a considerable coasting trade from Pensacola, Mobille, and the creeks and rivers falling into, and in the neighborhood of Lake Ponchartrain, from whence New-Orleans is principally supplied with ship timber, charcoal, lime, pitch and tar, and partly with cattle, and the places before named are supplied with articles of foreign growth and produce in the same way from Orleans. The vessels employed are sloops and schooners, some of which are but half decked, from eight to fifty tons; five hundred of which, including their repeated voyages, and 13 gallies and gun boats, entered the Bayou St. Jean last year. There is likewise a small coasting trade between the Atacapas and Opelousas, and New-Orleans, by way of the Balize, which would much increase, if there was any encouragement given by government, to clear away a few obstructions, chiefly caused by fallen timber, in the small rivers and creeks leading to them.

Congress of the United States.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thursday, November 17.

Mr. Randolph, from the committee of ways and means, reported a bill, fixing the salaries of certain officers therein mentioned.

The bill leaves the salaries blank.

Mr. Leib moved the recommittment of the bill to the committee of ways and means, under the impression that it had been the intention of the house, in making the original reference to that committee, that they, understanding the resources of the country, should fix the quantum of the salaries, and not report a bill in blank.

Mr. Randolph, the chairman of the committee of ways and means, explained at some length, the reasons which had operated with the committee in reporting the bill in blank. He observed that he had himself been in favor of making a report, predicated on the previous decision of the committee, whether the existing salaries should be increased, dimnished, or remain unaltered. In this opinion he had been overruled, and the committee, not being able to agree among themselves on these points, had directed a bill in blank to be drawn up.

Mr. Nicholson vindicated the report of the committee as perfectly regular and conformable to the invariable practice in analogous cases. In all cases where a discretion, as to the quantum of money applied to specific objects, existed, committees had reported bills in blank, leaving the decision on the proper sums to the determination of the house.

Mr. Leib's motion to recommit was lost without a division, and the bill referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

An engrossed bill for the further protection of the seamen and commerce of the United States was read the third time.

Mr. Crowninshield moved to recommit the bill, for the purpose of so amending it, as to protect the property of neutral pewers from capture, by recognizing the principle that free ships make free goods.

Mr. Nicholson supported this motion, on the ground that it became the house to embrace so favorable an occasion of giving their sanction to this important principle.

Mr. Dana observed that the alledged objection did not lie against the bill, as the nature of the instructions to commanders of American vessels, was confided to the president, who would, no doubt, adopt such regulations as should be proper.

Mr. Eustis opposed the recommitment, on the ground that the provisions of the bill were an exact transcript of those contained in an act passed two years since in relation to Tripoli, and on the ground that the insertion of the proposed amendment might, while it failed to affect the principle of the law of nations, produce considerable inconveniencies so far as it related the Barbary powers.

The motion to recommit was lost—yeas 39—noes 69.

The question recurring on the passage of the bill,

Mr. Dana observed that it had been hitherto usual to require the yeas and nays to be taken to mark the disagreement of the members of the house; he moved that they should be taken on this question to shew their cordial agreement.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays on the passage of the bill, and carried unanimously in the affirmative—yeas 117.

Mr. Eppes moved the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to discontinue the offices of commissioners of loans in the different states, and to transfer the duties of those offices to the secretary of the treasury, with an allowance of dollars for additional clerks.

Referred to the committee of ways and means.

Mr. G. W. Campbell offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That so much of the act to establish post-offices and post-roads in the United States, as charges a postage on the transmission of newspapers, ought to be repealed.

Mr. C. on submitting this motion made a number of remarks to shew the importance of liberating from any tax the vehicles for diffusing political information, on the prevalence of which so intimately depended the preservation of the liberties of the American people.

Ordered to lie on the table.

BOSTON, November 11.

From Halifax.

By the way of Gloucester, we have received Halifax papers to the 22d ult. The frigate Andromache had returned there from a cruise. On the 25th September, she met a brig 10 days from Antigua, and received the following information: That on the 20th of September, the frigate Emerald fell in with a fleet of small armed vessels, fitted out at Guadaloupe, with about one thousand four hundred men on board, who intended to avail themselves of the British forces having been withdrawn from Antigua (on the expedition to Demerara) to invade, or at least distress that island. The Emerald attacked the whole fleet; took five or six of the largest and, destroyed several—and drove the remainder under the guns of the French batteries on the island of Guadaloupe.

In this gallant action, the boats of the Emerald were necessarily employed; and we are extremely sorry to learn, that a lieutenant of that ship, and twenty-eight brave fellows of her crew, lost their lives in the engagement.

The Andromache also spoke a French ship from Cape-Francois, bearing a cartel flag, for the purpose of carrying the French admiral Tourville La Touche, his wife and family, from thence to France.

NEW-YORK, November 17.

CAPE-FRANCOIS.

By the politeness of Mr. Dawson who came passenger in the Eliza Snell, from C. Francois, we learn particularly the extremities to which the French are reduced. Port de Paix had been taken by storm, by the brigands and 500 soldiers made prisoners, but all well used by the negroes.—This was attributed to articles of agreement made with them by the British.

Rochambeau was still at the Cape, and would have evacuated that place for St. Domingo, but in the intermediate space between Fort Dauphin and St. Domingo, there were about 4000 brigands cutting up the roads.

From a letter intercepted by the Vanguard, British 74, it was known that he could only hold out, about 8 or 10 days, being almost without provisions. The three French frigates at the Cape—the Servillante, la Virtue and le Clorinde, will of course fall into the hands of the British.—The city of St. Domingo was in much the same situation and almost without troops.

The places surrendered to the British, are all given up to the brigands. The British retain possession of no places, they merely claim the ordnance, vessels of war and other materials of a similar nature.

It is expected that, when the negroes get complete possession, they will not molest such of the inhabitants as were there prior to the arrival of general Le Clerc, but that the Europeans, who have arrived with him or since will not be permitted to remain.

The principal leaders of the brigands, are Dessalines, who is termed governor general, Christophe, Clairveaux (a mulatto) and Petion, who is the most intelligent, having been regularly educated in France, from whence he came in the army of Le Clerc.

The Eliza Snell, was stopped by the British fleet, and was with them two days, permitted to proceed, without an article being taken, or a single trunk opened, though she had two hundred passengers on board, principally French fugitives, and her hold was filled with their baggage.

Mr. Dawson expressed himself particularly indebted to the politeness of captain Mudge of la Blanche frigate.

Only one American vessel was left at the Cape, the schooner Two Brothers, to sail for Baltimore in two days. The schooner Charlotte, Mr. J. Icard, merchant of this city, sailed the day before the Eliza Snell, but was detained by the British on suspicion of having French property, and sent into Jamaica. The brig Little Sarah, of New-London, for this port, is also sent into Jamaica.

Flour was 80 dollars per barrel, there being in [illegible] which was there would fetch no price. The French had no idea of using it except in the hospitals.

Arrived yesterday,

The ship American, Thompson, in 42 days from Londonderry. Spoke, Nov. 6, the British ship Brothers, from Liverpool, for New-York.

Same day, the brig Ann Maria, Hand, 7 days from Savannah.

Same day, the brig Eliza and Mary, Starr, in 7 days from Savannah.

Same day, within the Hook, the ship Eliza Snell, Glenn, in 26 days from Cape-Francois.

Same day, the schooner Columbia, Jordan, of North-Carolina, in 35 days from Montego-Bay, Jamaica.

Same day, the sloop Republican, Burk, from North-Carolina.

Same day, the schooner Mars, Ransom, from Washington, (N. C.)

Cleared, ship South-Carolina, Betts, St. Domingo; brig Grand Turk, Taylor, Vigo, Spain; ship Union, Service, Greenock.

The ship Fame has arrived at New-Bedford from Liverpool, and was to proceed for New-York immedietely. There are Liverpool letters in town by her as late as the 8th of Oct.—but they contain no news.

PHILADELPHIA, November 19.

Arrived, brig Favorite, Ridge, Genoa, 113 days; schooner Nancy, Endicott, Jamaica, 7; Two Friends, Basset, Boston, 9; Regulator, Donaldson, Martinique, 36.

Cleared, snow Industry, Rhodes, Edenton, N. C.; brig Mary-Ann, Wallace, Surrinam.

Arrived, last evening the brig Favourite, Ridge, from Genoa, 113 days, and Malaga 82 days passage.—Capt. Ridge spoke Nov. 4th, the brig Fly, Williams, 4 days from Cape Henry: captain W. generously supplied captain R. with some provisions.

Arrived also, last evening, the schr. Regulator, Donaldson, 36 days from Martinique. Captain R. left there a number of vessels names unknown.

Martinique was blockaded by an English frigate and a schooner letter of marque.

TIMONIUM.

FOR SALE,

THAT well known Country Seat heretofore called Bellefield, adjoining the valuable estate of Thomas Cockey Deye, esq. on the York turnpike, about 10 miles from the city of Baltimore. This estate consists of upwards of three hundred acres, with a reasonable proportion of wood and timber, and a very large proportion of meadow—the garden and improvements generally will be found agreeable. It is thought unnecessary to be more particular, as any person wishing to purchase, will undoubtedly view the premises. Application may be made to the subscriber living thereon for the terms, or to Mr. John Merryman, No. 4, Calvert-street, Baltimore.

SARAH TURNBULL.

September 30. tuw