REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred so much of the message of the president of the United States as relates to aggressions committed on our coasts by foreign armed vessels; to the defence of our ports and harbors; to the building of seventy four gun ships, and to the preventing the exportation of arms and ammunition, have, according to order, had the same under consideration, and beg leave to offer sundry resolutions, on a

REPORT, IN PART.

1st. *Resolved*, That a sum of money, not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, be appropriated to enable the president of the United States to cause our ports and harbors to be better fortified and protected against any insult or injury.

2d. *Resolved* That a further sum of money not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars be appropriated to enable the president of the United States to cause to be built a number of gun-boats not exceeding 60, for the better protection to the harbors, coasts and commerce of the United States.

3d. *Resolved*, That a further sum of money, not exceeding six hundred and sixty thousand dollars, be appropriated to enable the president of the United States to cause to be built six line of battle ships to be added to the naval establishment of the United States.

—

REPORT.

Navy Department, Dec. 21, 1805.

SIR,

In answer to your letter of the 19th instant, I have the honor to state to you,

	Dollars.
That a 74 gun ship will cost,	328,888 89
That of the materials for 74's, in point of cost, we have on hand	520,000
That we have in service 10 gun boats.	
That we have building 10 gun boats.	
That we have in service 2 bombs.	
That we have building 2 bombs.	
That the average cost of building gun boats, will be, each	4,6 5
That the annual expence of a 74 gun ship in service, will be	132,500
That the annual average expence of gun boats in service, will be	7,000

It may be proper here to subjoin, that from the time congress shall authorise the building of 74 gun ships, it will require three years to prepare one for launching, but we could in the same period of time build six.

I have the honor to be,
Respectfully, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
ROBERT SMITH.

J. Dawson, Esq.

—

Navy Department, Dec. 16, 1805.

SIR,

I have had the honor of receiving your letter of the 8th instant.

Paper (A) exhibits a view of all the timber, plank, thick-stuff &c belonging to the navy department and deposited at Norfolk, Virginia; at Philadelphia; at New-York; at Charlestown, (Mass) and at Portsmouth (N. H.) Besides the timber, &c. mentioned in paper (A) we have a very considerable quantity at the city of Washington, which cannot, however, be precisely ascertained at this particular time, as we have lately been receiving and are continuing to receive supplies at that place of deposit.

Of the timber at the above mentioned places, there is live oak timber for the frame of 74's as follows, viz.

At Norfolk,	19 343 cubic feet.
At Washington,	4 885 – –
At Philadelphia,	21 032 – –
At New York,	17,653 – –
At Charrlestown,	37,914 – –
At Portsmouth, N.H.	17 687 – –

There is also at the city of Washington, 26,378 cubic feet of walnut and other timber, procured for the frame of 74 gun ships.

All the cannon necessary for six 74 gun ships are provided and paid for.

A contract has been made for all the necessary copper sheathing, bolts, nails, and spikes, and all other articles of copper required for six 74 gun ships—upon which an advance of 30,000 dollars has been made. And independently of this contract, we have on hand manufactured for 74 gun ships,

44,900 wt. of sheet copper,
8 777 do. bolts,
13 165 do. spikes.

I am respectfully,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
ROBERT SMITH.

J. Dawson, Esq chairman of a committee of congress.

—

[A]

TIMBER, PLANK, &c. AT NORFOLK.

159 feet	2	inches	
785	– 3	–	oak plank.
22,946	– 4	–	
32,705	– 4 1-2	–	
4,291	– 5	–	
2,278	– 5 1-2	–	
1,992	– 6	–	
2,261	– 6 1-2	–	
6,324	– 8 1-2	–	
42	– 9	–	
15,996	– 2	inch	pine plank.
1,105	– 2 1-2	–	
3,128	– 3	–	
56,314	– 4	–	
1,600	– 4 1-2	–	
324	– pine timber.		
147	– pine comings.		
2,080	– keels, kelsons & false keels.		
11,008	– oak timber.		
420	– oak fishes.		
276	1 2 inches oak knees.		
6,173	feet pine beams.		
654	– gun timber.		
38	futtocks 1		live oak.
69	do. 2		
12	do. 3		
50	do. 4		
60	top timbers		
60	1 2 top timbers.		
20	floor timbers.		
1	inner stern post.		
1	upper stern post		
7	upper deck hanging knees.		
3	do. lodging do.		
1	upper gun deck hanging knee.		
5	do. lodging do.		
1	lower deck hanging knee.		
2	Orlop deck knees.		
2	round house knees.		
3	square knees.		
3	spare knees.		
24	pieces chock stuff.		
11,552	feet live oak timber.		
9	lower masts.		
9	top masts.		
26	white pine stars.		
22	yards.		
9	bow-sprits.		
24	top gallant masts.		
14	poles.		
1,869	feet pine water ways.		
4	white oak fishes.		

AT PHILADELPHIA.

145	pieces red cedar.		
19,925	feet gun carriage stuff.		
3	keel pieces.		
5	white oak logs.		
1	harpen log.		
21	kelson and water way logs.		
9	mast logs.		
29	moulds for body of 74 gun ship.		
56	molds for after body of 74 gun ship.		
1,106	pieces live oak.		
8,903	feet 8 1 2 inch		oak plank.
368	" 8 "		
2,017	" 7 "		
892	" 6 "		
726	" 3 "		
360	" 8 " oak cullen		
702	" 6 " do		
13	pieces launching plank.		
14	old spars.		
8	small spars.		
135	two & three feet treenails.		
2	bilge ways.		
4	drafts for 74 gun ship.		

AT NEW YORK.

19 475	locust treenails.		
102,278	feet white oak plank.		
5,236	feet refuse do.		
17,701	feet pine plank.		
2,880	feet refuse do.		
16, 703	cubic feet L. O. timber.		
15,232	do.	white oak timber.	
2,348	do.	pine timber.	
4,700	do.	refuse pine & oak timber.	
2	pieces white oak timber.		
10	knees.		

—

AT NAVY YARD, CHARLESTON, (MASS.)

	Tons.	Feet.	Inches.		
1,716 pieces	796	28	6	new live oak.	
	6	35		old do.	
	77	8		knees,	white oak timber.
	22	23		stocks,	
	678	35		ship tim.	
	75	21		keels,	
	15	11		carlms.	
	374	16		yellow,	pine timber.
	93	21		dimens'n	
	542	4		pl.stocks	
30 feet	9 inch				
248	. 8	1 2	.		white oak plank.
619	. 8		.		
101	. 7	1 2	.		
982	. 7		.		
329	. 6	1-2	.		
2,335	. 6		.		
1,227	. 5	1-2	.		
9,733	. 5		.		
28,549	. 4	1-2	.		
7,182	. 4		.		
1,272	. 3	1-2	.		
3,934	. 3		.		
174	. 2	1-2	.		
36	. 2		.		
9,336 fee					pine plank.
194	. 3	1-2	.		
16,979	. 3		.		
3,714	. 2	1 2	.		
632	. 2		.		
2,132 slabs.					
1	lower mast.				
2	lower yards.				
3	top sail yards.				
1	bow-sprit.				
1	jib-boom.				
2	sprit-sail yards.				

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AT NAVY YARD, PORTSMOUTH, (N. H.)

879 pieces	17 050 cubic ft. L. O. tim
1,098 pieces	white oak timber.
66	white oak knees 500 inches.
5	keel pieces 40 ft. long.
42 feet	2 in
171	. 2 1 2 .
3,306	. 3 .
7,718	. 3 1-2
10 276	. 4 .

white oak plank.

Polemic Society.

OWING to the inclemency of the weather, no debate on Saturday evening last.

Questions for Saturday evening next.

1st. Is calumny less cruel or criminal than murder?

2d. Is the Physician a more useful member of society than the Lawyer?

3d. Which is the most attractive power in the female sex, Beauty, Money, or Merit?

Debate to commence half past six o'clock.—Price of admission 12 1-2 cents.

January 1. d4t

DOCUMENTS

Accompanying a Message from the president of the United States—continued.

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The Governor of the Missisippi Territory, to the secretary of state.

Missisippi Territory, town of Washington, 14 September, 1805.

SIR,

The enclosed affidavits marked No. 1, to 11, inclusive, will inform you of some outrages committed within this territory by two Spanish parties. The letters marked No. 1 to 5 and an order to col. Ellis, will inform you of the steps which I have thought it adviseable to take. The messenger with my letter to gov. Grand Pre has not returned, although he was requested and undertook to be back by this morning. I have not received any answer to my dispatch to you on this subject of the 14th June.

If, sir, I am to risque any thing on this occasion, it shall be in defence of the liberties and the property of the citizens, and in support of the honor and independence of my government; and I hope the measures taken and advised by me will not be found adverse to the views of the executive, or to the interest of the United States.

I am, with respect, yours,
(Signed)
ROBERT WILLIAMS.

The hon. James Madison, secretary of state.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. I.

Wilkinson county, Mississippi Territory.

Personally appeared before me, one of the justices of the peace for the said county, Arthur Cobb, jun. and being duly sworn according to law, on his oath deposeth, that on the night of the 3d of September, 1805, being at the house of Samuel Kemper, or otherwise, at the tavern of the Kempers, between the hours of 11 and 12, he awakened from his sleep by the cry of murder and robbers. On leaving his bed, he saw a man in actual contest with Samuel Kemper—on proceeding further, he saw another man and afterwards one more, and all being armed with the instruments of death, such as guns and pistols, he thought proper to retreat to call assistance; that afterwards, a pistol was found, which must have belonged to one of those men, and from every appearance he believes it to belong to Ira Cook Kneeland.

(Signed)
ARTHUR COBB, jun.

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
(Signed)
JOSHUA BAKER, J. P.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. II.

Likewise, as sheet, no. 1, appeared Wm. Westberry, and deposeth, that at the same time being awakened from his sleep by the breaking open the door, that on rising, he saw, he thinks five men, in the act of beating with a stick Samuel Kemper, in the town of Phickneyville—that he saw them drag him by the hands, heard the men give orders to tie his hands with a rope—that said Samuel Kemper gave the cry of murder and that was the last he saw or heard of them.

(Signed)
WILLIAM WESTBERRY.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 3d day of September.
(Signed)
JOSHUA BAKER, J. P.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. III.

Likewise at the same time appeared before me, James Latta, who deposeth on oath that at the same hour, being just awakened by some man requesting to see Samuel Kemper, he heard them ask for whiskey, and being asked who he was, said a friend;—that they then being in the house, broke open the door of said Kemper's private lodging room, that he, Latta, attempting to rise, was thrown back on the bed by two men, who said they would take his life if he spoke. That there appeared to be five men in number, and all disguised with black paint, that after some short time, he got an opportunity of escaping, when he went for assistance, and before his return they had borne off the said Samuel Kemper, and he saw them no more.

(Signed)
JAS. LATTA.

Subscsibed and sworn to before me, this 3d day of September.
(Signed)
JOSHUA BAKER, J. P.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. IV.

Wilkinson county, Missisippi Territory.

Personally appeared before me, one of the justices of the peace for said county, John Atkinson, Henry Gamheart, Richard Richardson and John Whittaker, who being duly sworn according to law, on their oaths depose—That on the night of the 3d September, 1805, being at the house of Nathan Kewper, in the vicinity of Pinckneyville, between the hours of 11 and 12, they heard some person hail the house, and on being asked two or three times who they were, they steadfastly affirmed it was capt. Abrams. Immediately afterwards they opened the door, which swung on the inside of the house and was fastened by a string on the inside—Immediately on this, Reuben Kemper appeared to be only at that moment awaked from his sleep, asked who was there; when they immediately seized him, dragged him out of the house, and tied him, after bruising him very much with a club or clubs.

Almost at the same time they dragged Nathan Kemper from the bed wherein he lay with his wife, and tied him also, but did not beat him as much as they did Reuben. Said Nathan Kemper requesting to see his wife, was refused in very rough language; she likewise was refused in her request of seeing her husband. On Nathan Kemper's asking what they had done to deserve such treatment, was answered, God damn! you have ruined our country—which he, Atkinson, believes to be the American territories of Spain. That the said Nathan Kemper's wife received considerable injury from the violence of these men, who all appeared armed with guns, pistols, or clubs. That in the act of confining the above two men, they cocked and uncocked their guns a great many times, and ordered every man in the house to tell his name, and kept a strict guard at both the doors of the house, and would not admit of any one of the family, or any one that did not belong to their party passing and repassing, as they frequently presented their guns cocked, and said they would blow the first one through who attempted to oppose them. That they then gave a regular military word, forward march, and at the second word of command, they proceeded on their way, and bore off both Reuben and Nathan Kemper.

That the next morning they saw a considerable quantity of blood, apparently having issued from the wounds of Reuben Kemper.

(Signed)
JOHN ATKINSON,
HENRY GAMHEART,
RICHARD RICHARDSON,
JOHN WHITTAKER.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 3d day of September.
(Signed)
JOSHUA BAKER, J. P.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. V.

Territory of Orleans, county of Point Coupee, Sept. 5, 1805.

On this day appeared before me, Ebenezer Cooley, a justice of the peace for the county of Point Coupee, Nathan Kemper, who being duly sworn, declared:

That on the night of the 3d instant, as he believed, between the hours of 11 and 12, the doors of his house were forced open by a party of armed men, amounting, as well as he could ascertain, to the number of 18 or 20; that as soon as the party had entered, they cried surrender, seized his brother Reuben, and dragged him out at the door. After a struggle, during which they had beat him with a club, and so choaked him that he had barely power to say—I surrender. During this time a part of the same party seized the deponent by different parts of the body, and dragged him from his bed where he lay with his wife and child, out through the door; after which he heard some of the party who remained in the house, cry out, if the bitch utters another word, put her to death.—Whereupon he heard a blow given at the bed, and though he frequently called to his wife to know if she was still alive, could get no answer. After the deponent and his brother Reuben, had been fast bound, they were conducted along the road leading to Pinckneyville, as far as the plantation of Mr. Abraham Haton, being still within the limits of the Missisippi territory; and thence down the main road leading towards the line of demarcation. At some small distance above the line, they were conducted a short way into the woods where they halted a considerable time, until he heard a detachment of the same party coming along the main road, to which they were again led back from the wood, and discovered their brother Samuel Kemper, in the custody of the said detachment. From thence they were conveyed across the line of demarcation, and delivered to capt. Solomon Alston, by whose party they were put on board a piroque at Tunica landing, under a guard of six armed men, who said their orders were to take them to Baton Rouge, and there deliver them at the fort. From Tunica, they departed about day-break, and as they passed along by the shore by the shore of Point Coupee, called out that they were American citizens, and clandestinely taken from their habitations within the Missisippi territory. After which they were rescued by lieutenant Wilson, commandant of the garrison at Point Coupee. The deponent further says, that among those who surrounded his house, he recognised the following persons—Minor Butler, and his brother-in law Ritchie, Abraham Horton, and several of said Horton's negroes, all inhabitants of the Missisippi territory.

(Signed) NATHAN KEMPER.

Sworn before me this 5th day of September, 1805.

(Signed) EBENEZER COOLEY,
Justice of the peace.

—

AFFIDANIT No. VI.

Territory of Orleans, county of Point Coupee, Sept. 5, 1805.

On this day appeared before me, Ebenezer Cooley, justice of the peace for the counyt of Point Coupee, Samuel Kemper, who being duly sworn, declared:

That on the night of the 3d instant, about the hour of 12, as he believes, being at his house in the town of Pinckneyville, in the Missisippi territory, he heard a knocking at the door, and asked who was there. An answer was made, which he did not understand, and the outer door burst open. The door of the bed-room was then forced, and a blow made at the bed with a double-barreled gun. The deponent was then seized and dragged out of the bed by a number of men, who drew him into the room which they had first entered, and from thence, after a struggle, into the street. He was then thrown on the ground, and a rope was tied round his neck, by which he was dragged about one hundred and fifty yards. He was then suffered to stand upright, and attempted, by crying out, to give an alarm, upon which he received a stroke of a pistol on the head, by which he was stunned. The rope being removed from his neck to his arm, he was compelled to run for the space of about a quarter of a mile, after which he was forced to get up behind a man on horseback; a negro on foot still holding the rope by which his wrist tied. He was then led along the main road across the line, and delivered to a party of men, who conducted him to the landing of Bayon Tunica. Then he was put on board a piroque, with his two brothers, Reuben and Nathan Kemper, & conducted down the river, towards Baton Rouge. When opposite Point Coupee, they gave the alarm, and were received by lieut. Wilson, commandant of the garrison of Point Coupee.

(Signed) SAMUEL KEMPER.

Sworn before me this 5th day of September, 1805.

(Signed) EBENEZER COOLEY,
Justice of the peace.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. VII.

Territory of Orleans, county of Point Coupee, Sept. 5, 1805.

On this day appeared before me, Ebenezer Cooley, justice of the peace for the county of Point Coupee, Reuben Kemper who being duly sworn, declares:

That on the night of the third inst. about the hour of 12, being at the house of Nathan Kemper, within about two miles of Pinkneyville, within the limits of the Missisippi territory, the house was surrounded, and the doors thereof forced open, by a party consisting of at least nineteen persons, whereof some were negroes, and some white men in disguise; that among the latter he recognised and personally knew the following persons: Louis Ritchie, Miner, Butler, Abraham Horton, James Horton, and two others, whose names he did not recollect, but expected soon to be able to ascertain, all of whom were inhabitants of the Missisippi territory; and Marcus Carr, James Say, Philip Say, and others residing within the Spanish line. Of the negroes, whose number amounted to 7, at least 3, whose names are William or Bill, Nat and Moses, and others, whose names he did not recollect, he knew to be the property of the above mentioned Abraham Horton. That the said party, all of whom were well armed, after having forced their way into the house violently, forced him from his bed room, after a struggle of about 15 minutes, during which he received several violent blows on the head and face; and after having torn off his shirt and tied him with cords, forced him over the line into the Spanish territory, where they delivered him up, with his two brothers, Nathan and Samuel Kemper, bound in the same manner: to Solomon Alston, who commanded a large party of armed men. That said Alston received them within 10 or 15 feet of the line; on the Spanish side, that from thence they were conveyed to the Bayou of Tunica landing, bound as already mentioned, and nearly naked, where they were put on board a piroque and there tied all three together, by orders of said Alson. That said piroque, was commanded by William Breher, and manned by Charles Stuart, Adam Bengaman, John Ratliff, George Rowe, and John Morris; that they departed from the Bayou Tunica for Baton Rouge, at day break, where said William Barker had orders to deliver the prisoners up to governor Grand Pre. That as they passed along the shore of Point Coupee, the prisoners found means to declare their situation to Dr. Powles, who immediately gave information thereof to lieut. Wilson, commandant of the garrison of Point Coupee. That lieut. Wilson immediatdy manned his boat, boarded the piroque, and took the prisoners, with those who conducted them, into custody, about the hour of 12 the same day.

(Signed) REUBEN KEMPER.

Sworn before me this 5th day of September, 1805.

(Signed) EBENEZER COOLEY,
Justice of the peace.

—

AFFIDAVIT No. VIII.

Territory of Orleans, county of Point Coupee, Sept. 5, 1805.

On this day appeared before me, Ebenezer Cooley, justice of the peace for Point Coupee, Adam Bingaman, who being duly sworn, declared, that on the night of the 3d inst. at a very late hour, he was one of a party commanded by a captain Alston, & stationed within a few yards of the line of demarkation, at the Spanish side, for the purpose, as declared by captain Alston, of seizing the Kempers, who were expected to come from the American territory. That at the distance of about fifty yards above the line, he saw a party approach who were hailed by captain Alston, to whom they delivered 3 prisoners. The party to which the deponent belonged, was then ordered by capt. Alston to conduct the prisoners to Bayou Tunica, where the prisoners were put on board a piroque and ordered off for Baton Rouge, at about day break on the fourth.—That as they were passing opposite the post at Point Coupee, their piroque was boarded by lieutenant Wilson, with a party of his men, who took the prisoners and their conductors into custody.

(Signed)
ADAM BINGAMAN.

Done before me,
(Signed)
EBENEZER COOLEY,
Justice of the peace

—

AFFIDAVIT, No. IX.

Territory of Orleans, county of Point Coupee, Sept. 5, 1805.

On this day appeared before me, Ebenezer Cooley, justice of the peace for the county of Point Coupee, Wm. Barker, who being duly sworn, declares: