From a New-York paper.

The following letter, which was lately addressed to governor Lewis, is now submitted to the consideration of the public, at a time when the subject demands the attention of every good citizen.

New-York, January 12th, 1806.

SIR,

The malignant disease, which prevailed in this city for a considerable part of last autumn, having ceased about the beginning of November, it becomes my duty to lay before your excellency, such an account of it as my official situation has enabled me to collect. I undertake this task with the more readiness, and shall examine the subject with the more attention, as this disease has lately acquired great additional importance from the frequency of its recurrence, the extent of its ravages, and the new and alarming points of view in which it is now considered by the nations of Europe. The embarrassments of our commerce on this account, in foreign ports, have been increasing for several years; they are already become oppressively great; they are likely hereafter to become still greater; and nothing but a thorough investigation of the subject and the adoption of a wise and mature system of measures, will be sufficient to ascertain and set in operation any adequate means for relief.

In former seasons it has been usual to observe sporadic cases of this disease for several weeks before the commencement of the epidemic. This was remarkably verified in the late season; and such cases deserve the more attention as they furnish the best means of calculating the probability of approaching pestilence. Accordingly, one case of a decidedly milignant character was observed in the month of June; several took place in July; a still greater number in August; and at the beginning of September they had become so numerous as to ascertain the existence of the epidemic.—Throughout September and October the disease continued to prevail with more or less severity according to the fluctuating states of the weather; but towards the close of the latter month, the coldness of the season had evidently checked its progress; and at the beginning of November, the city was nearly restored to usual health.

During the early period of the epidemic, nearly all the cases took place on the eastern side of the city, in Front, Water and Pearl-streets, and principally below Burling Slip. They afterwards became more generally diffused. About the 20th of September they began to prevail near the North River. On the whole, the low grounds near the margin of the two rivers certainly produced a chief part of the cases. The number of deaths of the disease in the city amounted to about 200; those at Bellevue hospital to 52; and those at the marine hospital, sent from the city, to 28. The number of cases of malignant fever reported to the board of health amounted to about 600. It is proper, likewise, in estimating the extent of the epidemic, to notice an unascertained number, probably about 40, who after their flight from the city, died in various parts of the country.

The source of this disease forms a most interesting subject of enquiry; on the success of which must depend all rational and adequate means of preventing and eradicating the evil. After a long and careful investigation of the subject, I cannot hesitate to conclude that *a pernicious exhalation or vapor floating in the atmosphere*, is the primary and essential cause of this disease.—In order to produce this vapor, it is necessary that there should be a concurrence of heat, moisture and a quantity of decaying animal and vegetable matter. It is therefore exhaled by heat from low and moist grounds overspread with the corrupting offals of animal and vegetable substances, from such substances collected in large masses, or from any place where the process of putrefaction is going on to considerable extent. This exhalation likewise abounds more in some situations than in others. It is more frequently and copiously produced and more highly concentrated in warm and tropical countries than in high latitudes and frozen regions. It prevails and exerts its pernicious influence peculiarly in certain climates, seasons and local situations. It is generated more in summer and operates more powerfully in autumn, than in other seasons of the year; and it is uniformly more frequent & virulent in sea-port towns, in situations along sea coasts, in plains, & near rivers, lakes, marshes and swamps or wherever stagnant waters are found, than in the interior high and mountainous districts of the country. It is undoubted by one of the most universal causes of disease in nature. However diversified in quantity or virulence by local circumstances, or by varieties of climate, season or the condition of society, its effects in one degree or another are nearly co-extensive with the habitable parts of the globe.

While the noxious exhalation just described, when existing in a high degree of virulence, is considered, as forming the *primary and essential cause* of our disease; it is proper in order to be well understood, to notice the operation of certain *secondary* or *exciting causes*. These are exposure to heat, fatigue, cold, intemperance, fear, anxiety, &c. some of which are, in general, immediately instrumental in bringing on the disease in persons predisposed to it, by the agency of the atmospheric poison. The impression of this poison, by avoiding exciting causes, may often belong borne without falling into illness; and hence the operation of exciting causes in suddenly producing the disease is often so striking as to lead many entirely to overlook the effect of the principal agent.

The sources of pernicious exhalation in this city are unhappily very numerous and difficult to correct. Some of them are evils of such magnitude and extent, that it requires resolution to consider them, and not to relinquish in despair, the work of reformation. The mode of constructing our wharves and slips would almost induce the belief that they had been designed for repositories of filth and nurseries of disease. The *made ground* on the east river is pregnant with almost annual pestilence; it is now become enormousy extensive; it was orriginally composed of the most corrupt materials; from its relation to the river, and the condition of the wharves & slips, it must constantly remain moist; from its surface being nearly level, it receives and retains the collected filth washed down from the higher grounds; and besides all this, the offensive and putrid matter, which a crouded population must necessarily deposit, & which already underlays a great proportion of this part of the city, incessantly augments the mass of corruption. Can it possibly excite supprise, that the scorching heat of summer, operating on the complicated pollution of this ground, formed of an aggregate of nuisances, and still the receptacle of numberless others, should exhale poison and death into the atmosphere which stagnates over its surface?

As the materials of putrefaction and the degrees of heat, in a large city, greatly exceed what is found in the adjacent country; so the diseases arising under such circumstances, must be proportionably more malignant. The pestisential fevers of our city differ only in grade from the bilious and remittent fevers of the country.—They prevail in the same climates, they come on at the same season of the year; they are chiefly disposed to attack persons of the same constitution; they commit their ravages on the organs of the body and produce symptoms differing only in degree; and they decline and disappear at the same season and under the same circumstances. In the city we often see in the same family and under equal circumstances of exposure the malignant forms of pestilence and the mild forms of remittent fever; and in the country, while the great mass of cases are usually mild, we occasionally meet with some which exhibit the violent attack, the intense malignity and the rapid dissolution, which often mark the pestilential fevers of the city.

[*To be Continued.*]

From the Boston Centinel.

ON THE NON-INTERCOURSE BILL.

"*Let your moderation be known unto all men.*"
[HOLY BIBLE.]

In moments of irritation, we are too much heated to consider the nature of the satisfaction due for injury, the proper means of defence, or the consequence of revenge. To act thus without reflection or foresight, is at best the folly of passion. Experience teaches us we should rather take council from our interest, than our feelings, and that it is as wise to consult our duty as either.

If our rights are infringed, we wish a renewal of them without any unjust restriction. It is foolish, however, to seek this remedy at first, by the abandonment of those we still enjoy. The last resource or despair is not to be chosen in the first moment of disappointment, and perhaps the best mode to gain all we wish is to improve all we possess.

It is impossible for a man of any reflection or observation to keep these sentiments out of mind at the present critical moment. The disputes between this country and England so long attended with rigor on her part and injury on ours, will not admit of much longer vain complaints and harsh recriminations. They must terminate shortly in the silence of war or peace. In what way should we wish them to terminate, and what are the proper means of producing the end we desire?

Do we wish for war? No man of experience or reflection will answer in the affirmative. We have nothing to gain, but every thing to lose by it. Our neutrality during the last and present European war has elevated our country, even beyond the expectations of the most romantic politician. Notwithstanding all the injuries we have suffered, we have progressed most rapidly from national bankruptcy to national wealth; while individuals have exchanged competence for fortune. Is it then wise to venture on untried scenes, to alter at once our habits, employments, and relations, and to venture in games where the winner is too often ruined? If the event was doubtful, and the pressure of our affairs excused it, a wise man would strive to reconcile himself to the change, and study the means of rendering it safe or honorable. But we are not in a situation which requires an appeal to the last resort.

No one can honestly say that war is necessary, until the means of preserving peace prove unavailing. When this is the case, we may take arms with confidence, and the contest is holy and honorable, whatever may be the issue. That destiny can never be severe to any man, which stops him in the career of patriotism. The fate of that nation is glorious, which perishes with its rights. But as yet we have not tried the means of reconciliation, and need not alarm ourselves with the sad images of war. Let us recur to old measures and we may hope a similar result.

During the last European war when the French practised all the outrages and violence of barbarous times, we had recourse to all the means of pacification. Though we had nothing to fear from her in war, which we did not suffer in peace, we sent embassy after embassy, and even humbled ourselves under abuse, when we might have resented injury with equal honor & success. When we were at last driven to take arms, we still proffered the olive branch. It was thought the policy of our country, and it finally restored between the two nations the relations of friendship.

When England at the commencement of the last war was excited by a very natural and almost justifiable jealousy to oppress our commerce with unjust restrictions, many measures of defence were proposed by men of different feelings. A non-intercourse bill and the sequestration of debts were then advised as proper modes of retaliation. The genius of America had not then deserted her, and these hopeless projects were abandoned, until other means should prove ineffectual. Pacific overtures on our part succeeded, and commercial arrangements were formed by the two countries, which proved equally conducive to the prosperity of both. Our enterprize grasped the world. Our success was equal to the adventure. We acquired more than we hoped, and our hopes surpassed our means.

At the renewal of the present war we had proceeded for some time with all the ardor and zeal of good fortune. We have been stopped again in our career by the renewal of harsh and vexatious restrictions on the part of England. She has again appealed to principles which we cannot admit, and claimed as rights, what we cannot grant her even as an indulgence. In the exercise of these assumed rights we find a sourse of complaint, for it has cost us much, and threatens to cost us more. It is however nothing novel or monstrous, but a partial renewal of the injuries we complained of in 1793. What then remains to be done?

In answer to this question, every man of sense will advise us to resort to the measures adopted in 1794. If we have heretofore succeeded in our negociations with England on the same points, may we not promise ourselves the same success by using the same means? England has now perhaps as strong reasons for relaxing her claims as heretofore. We too have better reasons to hope it. We may appeal to her justice as powerfully as we have done to her interests; and her interests will forcibly second our demands. From both we may calculate with certainty on effecting an adjustment of our disputes, and arrangements which must necessarially by mutually advantageous.

If we may argue from the past, or predict any thing from the present, why shall we rashly enter on a course of measures, which at best can injure England, but must certainly injure ourselves. It has been stated that the trade carried on between this country and England requires a credit & capital of forty or fifty millions of dollars. When a check is put to a branch of traffic which bears such a relation to our whole commercial concerns, extending to all parts of our country, and connected with all the busy occupations, as well as grateful comforts of civilized life, we should anticipate no ordinary evil. It must be felt at once at the public treasury and by the private purse. If it continue, it must effect both countries indiscriminately, though perhaps unequally. If it should there stop the shuttle, it must here rust the plough. The merchant must limit his enterprise, and the farmer would want a customer. Foreign articles would rise every day in price in our market. Our own produce would as necessarily fall. The English, by enforcing their principle, would leave us to murmur and repine in a dungeon of our own choosing. The trade they would compel us to abandon they would carry on indirectly themselves; and thus gain a partial indemnity for our just irritation, but foolish mode of retaliation. In this trial of "who could do the most harm," it is plain there is a chance of England's exposing us to the greatest evil. At least we must suffer much: With a limited dispirised trade, a reduced capital and credit, and a dimnished revenue, we could not boast much of the pleasure of revenge.

All this is allowed by those who are urging us to the suicide of non-intercourse. But they defend themselves by an assurance derived from the situation of England, of this measure's inducing her to relax her claims as as a belligerent, and to yield to our demands. With a mob of disappointed manufacturers and their starving workmen, they expect to intimidate the British cabinet and to compel submission to our terms. Is there any thing in history to support this expectation? The ministry of England has been generally made of sterner stuff. They at least stubborn enough to struggle before they surrender to peremptory demands. They have supported the nation against the weight and oppression of absolute and inevitable evils, notwithstanding treason at home, and a triumphant foe abroad. They will not be utterly dismayed at a measure, which they know never has and never can be carried into complete effect, while the face of nature and passions of man remain unaltered. They may at least shew a little firmness where the evil is matter of conjecture, and try what relief may be found in more adventurous enterprise. For they know Bonaparte clothes his army in English cloths; and that we can as easily exclude the light of the sun as the manufacturers of Manchester, Liverpool and Bristol. The national pride will readily submit to some evil, rather than sacrifice its claims to our threats. At the best, we ought to fear as much from the monopoly of England, in Europe, as we have to hope from our own restrictions on her trade, at home; and it is wisest never to discover to others by experiment, that our friendship or enmity is not of so much importance as they esteem it.

But have we any reason to think from the situation and late conduct of England, that she will rest contented with this state of discontent, which will only injure her? If she cannot enjoy the benefits of peace, she will and must avail herself of the advantages of war. If she cannot profit by her connection, she will very prudently enrich herself by its discontinuance. An hundred millions of dollars, which our unprotected commerce offers her, will more than pay her extraordinary expences incurred in her naval expeditions, for the little time we should be inclined to a contest, in which there is so little to be acquired. Her present naval establishment admits of a complete destruction of our trade in spite of our gun-boats and decaying frigates. We undoubtedly should occasion her some serious inconvenience, but nothing would be gained which would serve to restore to life an annihilated commerce. We should do what men could do, but we could not change the order of nature. In our present circumstances we could not expect victory, but defeat. If, therefore, England conceives she cannot safely abandon the principles she has assumed, without some compensation, we must expect from her situation tempotary hostility if we invite it, especially when she will from this change become the carrier of the world, & acquire some indemnity for the loss of a direct trade with us.

The conduct of England in similar emergencies does not promise a very pacific reception of our new kind of commercial negociations. Whether her principles are correct or not, will be an eternal subject of dispute; but in what manner she acts when other nations have endeavored to effect a relaxation by direct or indirect hostility, admits of no question. When the three Northern powers, in 1800, in the language of the British cabinet, "commenced a project to establish a new code of maritime laws, inconsistent with her rights, and hostile to her intrests," it did not porceed far without effectual interruption. The battle of Copenhagen, is an eternal memento of the spirit with which England will meet an attempt to legislate for her, by fleets, and armies, and embargoes. At that moment, if ever, her situation demanded concession to a powerful ally, whose influence on the continent, she duly appreciated. But she forgot every relation, she broke every tie, when force was the argument resorted to in order to change her doctrines. And can we promise ourselves a more successful event to the hostility of a non-intercourse bill? This answers to the Prussian embargo, and may provoke something worse than the restriction of our trade. At most it promises us no good, and threatens a certain evil, whose extent cannot at this moment be calculated. As it is not, however, necessary to incur any hazard or provoke any injury, it is certainly the part of wisdom first to seek pease in the regular mode and to leave in reserve all our resources in ease of our failure.

It is evident, however, that our government expect, from the situation of Great-Britain, that our *non-intercourse* will at worst meet only with *non-resistance*. They would not otherwise, in our present wholly *unprotected state*, without fleets or armies, and a commerce rich beyond former time, scattered over every sea, urge on their present measures. We must, however, warn them, that their hopes may be too sanguine, and that our wealth and revenue may stimulate England to attempts we should not fear from her temper. We would remind them, that a mistake on this point would involve many of us in miseries, and cover them with the execrations of a disgraced and impoverished people.

The measures, therefore, to be pursued by government are too plain and obvious to need enumeration. Honor and peace and profit are before us. Let them not be idly sported with. Let our administration pursue the steps of Washington and Adams. Let a minister of talents aud probity be dispatched to England to represent our wrongs, and demand redress. In the mean time let us prepare for war. If our embassy fails, we shall be better able to assert our rights. Our property now afloat will have arrived in safety. We shall enter into the contest with more to expect and less to fear. Above all, we may appeal to the Lord of Hosts for the justice of our cause, and we shall experience that

"*Thrice is he arm'd who hath his quarrel just,*
"*And he but naked, though locked up in steel,*
"*Whose concience with injustice is corrupt.*

PHOCION.

February 11, 1806.

BOSTON, February 17.

Captain Hooper arrived here on Saturday from Martinico, informs, that on the 17th January, in lat. 19, 40, N. long. 63, 13, W. he was bro't to & boarded by a French 84 gun ship, then in company with 5 other ships of the line and 2 frigates. He was told by the officers, that the fleet was direct from Brest; that they had been out 31 days, and were bound to St. Domingo.

Captain Hooper left at St. Pierres, Mart. on the 15th January, and says, there was not a single prize lying there when he sailed.

NEW-YORK, February 21.

We learn by captain Moncrieffe, that in consequence of a French fleet being to windward, martial law was proclaimed at Jamaica.

Captain Howell, from Porto-Rico, informs, that it was reported at that place when he sailed, that 12 sail of French ships of the line, and as many frigates, had gone to leeward; supposed to be bound to the city of St. Domingo. Seven British frigates passed St. John's the day he sailed.

Captain Whittlesey, of the brig Joseph, arrived yesterday from Surinam, informs us, that on his passage from that place, the 14th of January, to the windward of Martinique, he was boarded by three English men of war. On the 17th he saw five sail of men of war, was boarded by one of them, who examined his papers, but they shewed no colors, supposed them to be French. The smallest of the ships was of 36 guns. They chased and brought too, two other vessels about the same time, but let them pass. They were then in lat. 19, 12, long. 62, 40, and were steering to the westward. On the 18th spoke the brig Jane, Hooper, of Boston, from Martinique, who had been boarded by a 74 gun ship, one of the fleet that boarded captain Whittlesey the day before, who informed, that they were 36 days from Brest, [Rochefort probably] and that the fleet consisted of 7 sail, one of 100 guns, four of 74 and two frigates.

The following paragraph, relative to the late *secret* business of congress, is from the Gazette of the United States of the 18th inst. The Aurora of the 19th ascribes it to the pen of the marquis d'Yrujo; and insinuates that he had obtained the information, if true, at "an heavy expence—by the violation of oath, honor, duty, and love of our country."

"As to the boundaries of Louisiana, let the president now tell us what they are. We understand that the affair has been fully discussed and settled by congress with closed doors, with all the documents before them, showing how the subject was understood by France and Spain, the contracting parties to the treaty of retrocession, on which alone our claim is founded. It is said that the claim of the president to the territory comprehended within the Missisippi, Iberville, the lakes and the river Perdido, appeared upon investigation so totally groundless, that Randolph himself was very free in his comments upon the administration for having so egregiously deceived the country and brought us to the brink of a war, with a view of defending our claim to a territory to which we never had even the shadow of a title. The house of representatives, by a very large majority, decided *in opposition to the administration*, that, according to the treaty of retrocession and the other documents before them, France could not sell an inch of land east of the Missisippi, Iberville and the lakes."

JAMAICA, Jan. 25.

On Friday last week the German Jews assembled in their Synagogue for the purposs of offering a tribute of gratitude to the Almighty for the late glorious victory acheived by the immortal Nelson. The ark was opened, and the ceremonies used on the most solemn occasions were observed with great devotion. The service was performed in Hebrew, by the Rev. Simon Magnus.

By a Portuguese vessel arrived at Barbados from Rio-de-la-Plata, information was received that Buenos Ayres had been taken by sir Home Popham and sir D. Baird, without any loss on our part.

Buenos Ayres, which is understood has been taken by the expedition under sir Home Popham and general Baird, is situated in the southern or Æthiopian ocean, long. 58, 31, W. and lat. 34, 35, S. It is seated on the Rio-de-la-Plata, 50 miles from the ocean, though the river there is 21 miles in breadth, It is well fortified, and thither is brought a great part of the treasures and merchandize of Peru and Chili, which are exported to, and froms the sinews of the court of Spain. It contains above 3,000 houses, and 30,000 inhabitants, Spaniards, and native Americans. It certainly is an acquisition of great importance.

Arrived, the ship Experiment, Moncrieffe in 19 days from Montego-Bay, Jamaica. The ship Holland, sailed a week before the Experiment for New-York. Left ship Favorite, of New-York, to sail in 14 days for New-Orleans; and at Falmouth, the ship Hope, Smith, just arrived from New-York. February 8, in lat. 23, 30, long. 85, spoke the British sloop Jupiter, 15 days from Jamaica for Halifax. February 11, spoke the brig Leopard, 20 hours from Havana for Salem. passenger in the Experiment, Mrs. Douglas, widow of the late captain Douglas.

The brig Joseph Whittlesey, from Surrinam, sailed the 8th Jan.) via New-London. Left ships John, Wheaton, of Providence, time of sailing uncertain; Pomona, Pierce, of Boston, dismasted uncertain; brigs Providence, Spooner, for N. York, uncertain; Aurora, Knight, for Boston, in 30 days; Apollo, Jewett, of Portland; Harriet, Storer, for ditto, in 20 days; Cygnet, Kersey, of Bath, bound to leeward for a market; Ohio, Rust, for New-York, in 10 or 12 days; Betsy, Arnold, for Newport, in 20; Pacific, Edwards, for Salem, in 8; schrs. Delight, Warren, of New-York, bound to leeward; Active, Fletcher, of Philadelphia, for Trinidad, uncertain; Fish-Hawk, Cook, for Salem, in 15 days; ——, Mansett, for Norfolk, in 20.

The patent brig Achilles, Howell, in 15 days from St. Johns, Porto-Rico. Left, *schr. Patriot, and another schooner, both from Baltimore.*

The sloop Director, Tarlington, in 4 days from Norfolk.

Cleared, ship Othello, Tallman, Liverpool; brig Dido, Stiness, Lisbon; schr. Elizabeth, Robins, Curracoa.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 22.

From Cincinnati, January 8.

Mr. Kennedy, who keeps a ferry opposit this place, has furnished the number of persons who have emigrated to this state since last April, and who crossed at his ferry. If so many have crossed at one ferry, and an equal, or even half that number at every other ferry on the Ohio, what an immense increase have we had in less than a year,

From North Carolina,	563
South Carolina,	669
Kentucky,	568
Tennessee,	200
Illinois,	10
Virginia,	465
Georgia,	265
Total,	2740

Arrived, ship Liberty, Vickery, Batavia, 116 days; brig Eliza Tice, Marks, Jacquemel, 28; schr. Two Friends, Crowell, Charleston, 6.

Cleared, ships Three Sisters, Haesloop,