

From the N. Y. Evening Post.

It is hoped the following queries will be forwarded Mr. James, by republicans in the southern prints.

To Henry James, esq. of Kentucky.

Sir, the papers inform us that Thomas Powers, the agent of the Spanish baron de Carondelet, addressed a letter to you, & certain of your co-patriots, on the 10th of July, 1796, containing propositions for dividing the western states from the union, and that though you disapproved of these propositions, you did not communicate them to the government, because John Adams was then president, and you were afraid of a standing army.

Though I have no authority to demand answers, yet I presume the following questions will not be deemed impudent:

1st. Have you ever perused Stewart's Kentucky Herald of Sept. 18th and 20th, 1796, the last containing the deposition of the Spanish agent, Thomas Powers, made before George Wallis on the 9th of August, 1796?

2d. Do you know the author of the publication in the Herald of September 13th, 1796, entitled "A Piracy on the Ohio, perpetrated under the orders of major-general Anthony Wayne, commander of the American army."

3d. After perusing those documents, do you suppose, that general Wayne must have had some knowledge of the business, concerning which Powers visited Kentucky in July 1796?

4th. Though general Wayne is dead is it expedient for you to presume that all the information of which he was possessed died with him?

5th. Does not the constitution of the United States prohibit any state from entering into any agreement or compact with a foreign power, without the consent of congress?

6th. Were you not one of the district judges of the United States in 1796, and had you not taken an oath to support the constitution?

7th. Was John Adams or George Washington president in 1796?

8th. Were not the measures adopted by general Wayne to detect the intrigues of the Spanish agent, Powers, authorised by president Washington; and if so, did you or your associates take any pains to vindicate those measures, or were you restrained from doing so, by fear of John Adams and a standing army?

9th. What was the true date of your and Nicholas's letter to Sebastian—was it before or after the search of Powers, by order of general Wayne?

10th. If Powers had not been searched, would you and Nicholas have written the letter disapproving of Powers' proposal for a separation of the union? Whoever saw this letter before the late trial of Sebastian?

11th. Did you know and hold intercourse with certain persons, who were dispatched from Philadelphia, by a foreign minister, to travel through the Western country in 1796? If so, what were the objects of their mission?

12th. Did you, as was your duty, give any information to president Washington concerning these intrigues? Or were you prevented, by the fear of John Adams and a standing army?

13th. Do you fear an impeachment, or do you rely upon your professed hatred of the vigilant and virtuous John Adams, as an atonement with our masters, the Virginians, for your ingratitude and treason?

INTERROGATOR.

REPORT

Of the committee to whom was referred the resolution of the 11th December, to inquire whether any, and, if any, what description of claims against the U. States are barred by the statutes of limitation, which in reason and justice ought to be provided for by law.

That all claims for services rendered and supplies furnished or done prior to the 4th of March, 1789, are barred by sundry resolutions of congress, passed in the years 1785 and 1787, and by laws of the United States passed February 2, 1793, and on the 3d of March, 1795, and on the 9th July, 1798. Your committee are of opinion, that justice and sound policy require, that all just and equitable claims against the United States, which are thus barred, should be fully paid and satisfied: we therefore recommend the following resolution.

Resolved, that all just and equitable claims against the United States, for services rendered and supplies furnished during the revolutionary war with Great-Britain, and loan-office certificates, final settlement certificates, indents of interest, and balances credited on the books of the treasury, which are now barred by any law of the United States, ought to be provided for by law.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

House of Representatives.

Friday, Jan. 9.

Mr. Story, (of Salem) after some prefatory remarks, by which the character of gen. Knox, was, though briefly, yet forcibly and impressively illustrated, introduced the following resolution, which was immediately accepted by the house, and ordered to be transmitted to the widow of the illustrious deceased:

"Resolved unanimously, That the house do sincerely condole with the afflicted relatives, in the death of maj. gen. HENRY KNOX. That his patriotic services in the revolutionary war, and his honorable discharge of the duties of a statesman and citizen, entitle him to public approbation and reward. His memory shall sweetly dwell in the records of history, among those heroes, who have died, blest with the honors of their country."

The committee, consisting of Messrs. Story, Lloyd, Bangs, Athrop and Smith, &c. (W.S.) who were appointed to prepare an answer to the governor's speech, made

a report, which was accepted by the house without amendment. It is as follows:

"May it please your excellency.

"In convening again for the exercise of constitutional functions, the house of representatives receive with satisfaction, the address of your excellency, and congratulate you on the general health and prosperity. Organized by the public will, and sustained by the public confidence, we feel the deep responsibility devolved on us, and proceed in our duties with mingled diffidence and zeal. We trust with a free and generous people, the fair interpretation of our conduct, and are encouraged by the assurances, that the executive department will co-operate in measures, calculated to secure the dignity and happiness of the commonwealth.

"In a republican government, where the popular opinion is distinctly felt in every department, vigor and prudence in the exercise of its delegated powers can never be expected, unless union and candor prevail. In vain shall the arm of power be raised to crush domestic conspiracy, or repel foreign aggression, if the wisdom of the council be not seconded by the virtue of the citizen. A zeal in defence of national rights, a reverence for civil authorities, and an honorable obedience to the laws, are the rudiments of real patriotism. They alone can ensure to us at home, harmony and happiness, and abroad, respectability, confidence—in peace, the undisturbed possession of liberty, reputation, and property—and in war the successful defence of our families and altars. With these sentiments, we shall devote ourselves in concurrence with your excellency, to the promotion of all measures necessary in aid of the national government, to protect our lawful commerce, and our territorial rights.

"The various subjects relative to the state prison, the payment of the public debt, and the organization and discipline of the militia, shall receive an early attention. Their intrinsic importance, and the recommendation of your excellency, at the present moment, entitle them to the deliberate consideration of the legislature."

The same committee were appointed to present the answer to his excellency.

LEXINGTON, (Ken.) Dec. 25.

Opelousas, in Lower Louisiana.

Oct. 26th, 1806.

DEAR SIR,

As many of our fellow-citizens may not have understood the causes which gave rise to our late dispute with the Spaniards in this country, I beg leave, in addition to my former details on this subject, to communicate the subjoined account of the rise and progress of the affair.

Immediately after the cession of Louisiana from the French republic to the United States, it was a matter of primary importance, that the line of demarcation between the Americans and Spaniards should be ascertained and fixed.—Accordingly the American executive directed certain ministers, then in Europe, to enter upon a negotiation for that purpose, with the court of Spain, which had ceded the country to France, just prior to its cession to the Americans.

Whilst these negotiations were depending, the president gave notice to the minister of Spain, that the river Sabine which washes the western border of Louisiana, would be considered by the government, as the line between the two nations, until it should be specifically fixed by treaty. Whether this notification was ever communicated to the government of Mexico, is not certainly known. It is true however, that our executive gave directions to the commanding officer at Natchitoches, that if the Spaniards attempted to cross the Sabine, they should be immediately driven on the other side of that river. A party of Spaniards did actually pass it sometime after these orders, for the purpose of taking possession of a tract of country which they alleged had never been included in the cession of Louisiana to the Americans, and which virtually belonged to his Catholic majesty. This body of men by an inferior number of Americans, under the command of captain Johnson of Natchitoches, was compelled to retreat beyond the Sabine. The Spaniards irritated at these measures on the part of the Americans, which they considered as an aggression on their rights, and an actual commencement of hostilities, communicated the affair to the government of Mexico. It is said that the council of that province was immediately assembled, and that an army of 30,000 men was decreed to be raised for the purpose of taking possession of the ground from whence the first party had been repelled by the Americans.

It is certain, however, that sometime in the year 1805, the Spaniards began to collect an armament in the country on this side of the Sabine, between that river and the Rio Fonde, and continued to increase it until the fall of 1806. Information of this armament was communicated to the governor of the territory of Orleans, who immediately repaired to Natchitoches. A correspondence, conducted with considerable warmth, but by no means unsuitable to the existing posture of affairs, was opened between the governor and general Harara, a field-marshal in the Spanish service, and commander in chief of the Spanish armament on the Rio Fonde. The governor asserted the right of the United States to the territory upon which the Spaniards had encamped, remonstrated upon the injustice of the Spanish commander in having taken three American citizens, and sent them on prisoners to Nagadoches; and for having protected several negroes, who had fled from American citizens within the boundaries of the Spanish dominions. These

dispatches were conveyed by col. Hopkins, a young officer of considerable merit, to the Spanish camp. The governor received a verbal message from the Spanish commander, in reply, that he had not been vested with authority to enter into any specific investigation of the principles upon which the dispute of the two nations had been grounded; that he had sent the governor's dispatches on to the captain-general of Mexico, and that he held the station where he was then encamped by order of his Catholic majesty, from whence he could not retreat without actual compulsion.

In consequence of this message, conveying the intelligence that the Spaniards were determined to maintain their ground on the Rio Fonde, governor Claiborne thought it expedient to call out a part of the militia of the territory. A draft was accordingly made in the counties of Opelousas and Rapide. That part of the militia of Opelousas, composed of Americans, turned out with great readiness; but the French discovered every mark of disaffection to the cause. These people have been imposed on ever since the cession of Louisiana, by Spanish emissaries, who had deluded them with the idea that the country would either be again ceded to the French or Spanish government, or wrested from the dominion of the Americans by conquest. When the Spanish armament was formed on the Rio Fonde, they conceived that the period for the accomplishment of this event had arrived; and, therefore, resolved to remain neutral to avoid the censure of the Spanish government. The militia from Rapide marched in the expedition with considerable promptitude and spirit. They were principally Americans. From Opelousas, a troop of horse, composed of volunteers, was made up in the course of a few days, and were in perfect readiness to receive orders to march. A very handsome corps, elegantly equipped, marched also from the Mississippi territory. The place of rendezvous was at Natchitoches, where there was a considerable number of effective troops stationed in the garrison of that place.

About the time when these military preparations for an attack on the Spaniards were making, general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches to take the command of the American forces. It is thought that the Americans would have been able to oppose between thirteen and fourteen hundred men to the Spanish armament, which from the best authority never consisted of more than eight hundred men. The Spaniards were all mounted on horseback, and armed with a dagger about a foot long, a small fuzee and a brace of pistols. The body was covered by a light shield worn on the left arm, and made of several hides of leather closely attached together; but, by no means invulnerable to the rifle ball at a distance, or to the shot of the common horse-pistol, in a close engagement.

As soon as general Wilkinson arrived at Natchitoches, he opened a correspondence with the governor of Montero, who was then at Nagadoches. Colonel Cushing, the commander of the fort at Natchitoches, was sent to that place, with dispatches stating in mild, polite, and determinate language, the right of the United States to the tract of country then occupied by the Spaniards, and expressing his surprise that the Spaniards should pretend to any kind of claim to a portion of territory which had actually been ceded to the Americans in the cession of Louisiana; that he had received positive orders from the American executive to repel any armament of the Spaniards which might be formed on this side of the Sabine, with an exception to a small settlement on Bayou St. Pierre: that it was the wish of the government to prevent the effusion of blood, by every rational means of accommodation, but the orders of the executive would be rigidly enforced, provided it became expedient.

Colonel Cushing was politely received at Nagadoches, and treated with great hospitality by the governor of Montero, who, in reply to the communications of general Wilkinson, stated in a very short dispatch, that he was not authorized to enter upon an investigation of the existing differences between the two nations, but that the dispatches of the American commander in chief should be immediately communicated to the governor of Mexico. The governor of Montero added in a verbal message by col. Cushing, that accounts had arrived from Madrid of an amicable negotiation between the two countries having taken place; that the Floridas had been ceded to the United States for eleven million of dollars, and that under those circumstances, as it was not the desire of his government that blood should be shed upon that occasion, the Spanish armament should be withdrawn to the western side of the Sabine. It was accordingly ordered to pass that river.

A few days after the retreat of the Spaniards, an officer belonging to the army, came in with dispatches from the governor-general of Mexico. They contained an answer to those which had been sent on to Mexico by general Harara, when governor Claiborne and that officer first opened their correspondence. These dispatches were brought in twenty six days, a distance of 700 leagues, and being of a public nature, were opened by general Wilkinson. The governor of Mexico expressed his surprise, that the Americans should lay in any kind of claim to the country which the Spaniards had occupied on this side of the Sabine; that it had ever been considered by the former governments which had successively held dominion over the country, as the rightful territory of his catholic majesty, and that a large army had been collected in Mexico for the purpose of main-

taining the claim of the king of Spain; that with respect to the American citizens who had been taken, they should be delivered up, provided it should appear that they had not violated the laws of the country, & that the negroes who had fled to the Spanish dominions, should be also returned to the proprietors. On this last point the governor-general expressed a desire that some arrangements might be made between the two countries, with respect to negroes who should leave their masters and pass into the dominions of either of the two nations.

The affair having advanced to this crisis, general Wilkinson disbanded the principal part of the militia, which had been assembled at Natchitoches, except a company of forty men, commanded by captain Welsh, & the Natchez troop of horse. As the Spanish government, however, had asserted their right to the country lying between the Rio Fonde and the Sabine, and had actually taken possession of it with a considerable armed force, general Wilkinson conceived it to be his duty to support the right of the U. States to that territory, in the same manner. He accordingly wrote to general Harara, informing him that it was his intention to fix his camp near the Sabine. Several companies of soldiers were marched towards that river; and by the last intelligence from Natchitoches, it was the intention of the general to move the main army forward in the course of a few days.

The conduct of gen. Wilkinson, upon this occasion, has been highly meritorious. He has acted in the prosecution of every measure with uncommon moderation, promptitude and firmness. Lately, very great merit is attached, not only to all the officers who have been engaged in these operations, but to the Americans in general who composed our little army. The principles of patriotism appeared to animate all their movements, which were upon all occasions active, spirited and courageous, in a very high degree.

Doctor Sibley has in his possession a very large volume of manuscripts, containing an account of the ancient boundaries of this country, and copious details on its civil and political history. I shall go to Natchitoches in a few weeks for the purpose of procuring additional documents on the subject of Indian affairs. To Dr. Sibley I am already under great obligations for vocabularies of several Indian languages. I expect by the spring to be enabled to complete my collections on this subject, of nine or ten different idioms. A copy will be presented to the American Philosophical Society, and one, also, to doctor Barton of Philadelphia, to assist him in his investigation on the origin of Indians.

I am, dear sir, with much esteem,
Your most obedient,
ALLAN B. MAGRUDER.

Mr. Daniel Bradford.

BY THIS DAY'S MAILS.

CHILICOTHE (Ohio) the 15th inst.

Monday, December 15th, 1806.

The speaker laid before the senate the following written message from his excellency the governor of this state, viz:

To the general assembly of the State of Ohio.

I now communicate to the representatives of the people, such operations as have taken place under the act passed this session, to prevent certain acts hostile to the peace and tranquility of the U. States, within the jurisdiction of this state, that they may be fully possessed of what has already occurred and is still in train.

Immediately upon receiving the law, after its passage, I dispatched an express to Marietta, with orders to arrest the flotilla on the Muskingum river, and the agents engaged in its preparation, and to make due inquiry after such proof, as would lead to their conviction, as also to prevent any armaments proceeding, that might be descending the Ohio, if possible. The execution of these operations at Marietta, were entrusted to Judge Meigs and major-general Buell. I also dispatched orders to Cincinnati, to plant one or more pieces of artillery on the bank of the Ohio, to keep patroles up the river at proper distances, in order to give notice, in due time, of the approach of all boats, either singly or in numbers, and to call out a sufficient force to be able to meet 300 men, the number I expected might probably be with Blennerhazet's and Comfort Tyler's flotillas, if they might effect a junction, and lest they might attempt to pass in detachments of one boat at a time, not to suffer a single boat to pass, without an arrest and examination. The execution of these operations were entrusted to generals Gano, Findley & Judge Nimmo. I have also given authority to Jacob Wilson, esq. of Steubenville, to act, if occasion offers for his interposition in that quarter—and it gives me great pleasure to inform you that I have last night, received a communication from Judge Meigs, of Marietta, announcing the complete success of the operations entrusted to him and general Buell, and whose patriotic efforts entitle them both to my warmest thanks.

It is suspected notice was conveyed to Blennerhazet's island of the passage of the law, and the preparations making here to carry it into immediate effect; for it appears that in the night of the ninth instant, Comfort Tyler, passed Marietta with a number (not yet ascertained) of fast-rowing boats, with men armed indiscriminately with muskets, pistols and cutlasses, and anchored at the island, and immediately sent an express after Blennerhazet, who was hurrying on his flotilla; that upon discovering the movement of our militia they fled full speed to the island, which was guarded at night by centinels and lighted lanterns at proper distances, and none suffered to pass. It except by countersign or watch-word. Spies were also placed at Marietta, to give notice of the movements there; in the meantime general Buell, by the direction of Judge Meigs, with a detachment of militia, proceeded up the Muskingum river in the night, and arrested ten of the bateaux, as they were descending the river to join Tyler's forces; they were so hurried that four more of the bateaux were not got ready to embark and would also be seized, which I believe, the whole of the Muskingum flotilla. There were near 100 barrels of provisions seized on board, and 100 more which had not been put on board, and which I expect is also seized with the same remaining bateaux; these bateaux are each 40 feet long; wide and covered; and calculated

each to carry one company of men. It is believed notice was immediately given to the island of this seizure, for in about three hours afterwards, on the same night, Blennerhazet and Tyler made their escape from the island and have pushed, it is said, thro' Kentucky. Colonel Phelps, of Virginia, with a few mounted men, are in pursuit of them.

I expect Tyler's boat will descend the Ohio, to meet him and Blennerhazet at some point low down on that river, and I have no doubt but that general Gano will render a good account of them as they attempt to pass Cincinnati.

I also received last night a communication from the secretary of war of the United States, by direction of that government, requiring me, without delay, to raise 150 or 200 volunteer militia, to be formed in companies, with one field officer, one captain, two subalterns, and 70 men, commissioned officers, privates, and musicians, to each company, in the pay of the United States, and direct them to march to Marietta, with orders to seize the Muskingum flotilla, and prevent it from being removed until further orders from the president. But finding that this service was in part effected, I have ventured, from the necessity of the case, to vary in some degree from these instructions, and which I hope will meet the approbation of the general government and also yours. I have sent on orders last night to Marietta, to raise one company of volunteers, to be composed of one major, one captain, two subalterns, & 60 men, commissioned officers, privates and musicians, which I have thought sufficient to guard and keep safe the flotilla and stores already arrested—and have also dispatched an express to Cincinnati, with orders to raise two companies as above, each—as I thought the most force wanted there to relieve the militia previously ordered out, and to secure Comfort Tyler's flotilla while descending the Ohio, if it was not already done. I have no doubt that these three companies will instantly be under arms, and that this hitherto mysterious enterprise will be completely frustrated, and the intended evil levelled at the peace and tranquility of the United States, will fall with all its weight on its projectors.

EDWARD TIFFIN.

Chillicothe, December 15th, 1806.

In consequence of the proclamation of the president of the United States and the act of the legislature of this state, the militia under major John S. Gano, were called, and a considerable number volunteered—others were drafted to actual duty, to the number of one hundred and twenty men, a third part of which were stationed on the bank of the Ohio. Several boats were examined and discharged. On Sunday night, some very suspicious boats made their appearance and were brought to. The next morning they were examined, and although suspicion existed respecting certain boats in the boats, yet on investigation, they produced two certificates from officers on the Virginia side of the Ohio, and no legal evidence could be obtained by which the agent for the state could be authorised to detain either the boats or persons; since which time nothing has transpired to excite alarm. On Christmas day, captain Stoddard arrived at Newport, opposite this town, with one hundred and thirty troops of the United States, which with the detachment of militia will preclude the possibility of any boats descending without being noticed.

Extract of a letter from Judge Nimmo to a senator from Hamilton county, dated Cincinnati, December 16th, 1806.

"We are all in a bustle and confusion here, in consequence of the act, 'to prevent certain acts hostile to the peace and tranquility of the United States and this state.' The governor was so obliging as to commission me, to act upon it, in his room, here; and in consequence of which, two companies of militia, and the light infantry company, have been ordered out, consequently equipped and stationed along the river, so that it is impossible for a boat to pass, without examination. Unfortunately, Blennerhazet with four keel boats, has escaped—he passed here on Sunday evening, last, before the guards were put on the river.

At a meeting of a number of the citizens of Muskingum county, at the court-house, on the 26th of December, 1806, after the adjournment of the court, for the purpose of expressing the public sentiment on the important subjects, which have for some time agitated the public mind:—Jesse Fulton, esq. was chosen chairman, and Samuel Henrick, esq. secretary, when the following resolutions were unanimously agreed to:

Resolved, That this meeting, viewing with concern, the agitation of the public mind, respecting certain reports which are spread abroad, relative to the unusual preparations which have been made on the western waters for an expedition against the dominions of Spain, adjoining the United States and its territory, think it a duty they owe to themselves and their country, in this public manner, to express their decided disapprobation and abhorrence of such attempts, or any other which may tend to disturb the peace and harmony of the U. States.

Resolved, therefore, unanimously, That we will, to the utmost of our power, exert ourselves to detect and defeat any scheme of combining or organizing any of the citizens of the United States for the purpose aforesaid.

Resolved, That we will support the present administration of our government, in such measures as they may adopt, to check or defeat the same, with our lives and fortunes; being satisfied that under the present administration, we enjoy every blessing which the best of governments can afford.