The National Intelligencer,

AND

WASHINGTON ADVERTISER.

VOL. I. WASHINGTON CITY, PRINTED BY SAMUEL HARRISON SMITH, PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. No. CLX.

FIVE DOLLARS PER ANNUM. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11th, 1801. PAID IN ADVANCE.

IRON BRIDGE OVER THE THAMES.

(CONTINUED.)

The second part is the docks in Wapping, which are intended for the accommodation of several great branches of our trade which are subject to heavy duties. And

Third is, the improvement of the river from the Tower, upwards, to Blackfriars bridge; and this third part includes the rebuilding of London bridge. By this means, colliers and coasting vessels, and all vessels of light burthen, are to be admitted to pass the new London bridge, and thus can discharge goods immediately at the great warehouses, to be contructed along the banks of the river, and opposite to the centre of the city.

The two first parts of the plan have been sanctioned by Parliament, and have been undertaken by incorporated companies, excepting the canal, which is now executing under the direction of the city of London.

The committee have, in their third report, also recommended a general plan for improving the third or upper part of the port of London; that is, by removing the present London bridge, and replacing it with one of cast iron, 63 feet high in the clear above high water, with inclined planes connecting it with the present streets, and such other improvements as may grow out of this alteration. Also, deepening the bed of the river, to admit of ships of two hundred tons lying afloat at the water, and contracting the width of the river, in order to preserve its present velocity, and to acquire space for wharfs and warehouses, and for the inclined planes, without encroaching upon the property which is now connected with the shores.

It would require many drawings and much detail to convey an adequate idea of the form and construction of this magnificent arch; it cannot properly be shewn as whole in a drawing upon any scale that would admit a publication of this report. We understand the public curiosity will be speedily gratified with a perspective view, taken from the Surrey side of the present London bridge, on a plate four feet long and two feet wide, and which, besides the new bridge, comprehends the principal objects in the cities of London and Westminster, from Bow church to Whitehall, and the proposed wharfs, warehouses, and terraces, between the bridges. The bridge part is engraved by that eminent artist Mr. Lowry, whose scientific knowledge is only exceeded by his dexterity as an engraver; and all this will by Mr. Malton, whose views of London have done him honor, and qualify him to give the best ground with a precision which no other artist could be expected to equal.

According to this plan, the bridge is to be composed wholly of cast iron, which is much less liable to decay or alteration than hammered iron.—The ribs are to be cast in portions of as large a size as to be conveniently moulded, and cast correctly, and such as can be readily managed in the removing and putting up; they are to be connected by crofts and diagonal ties and braces, placed in such a manner that any one component of the entire arch, may be taken out separately, and be replaced without injury or interruption to the bridge. The ribs will receive the weight and pressure in a direction that the joints will operate upon the pieces of iron endways; therefore, before the bridge can give way, the iron must be crushed to pieces. All the frames or ribs are to be connected vertically and horizontally from the foot of the arch to the roadway, so that the whole bridge will act as one frame, and by that means fasten the foundations, guard the abutments, and guard against any error in the equilibration of the arch. The ribs are to be so disposed that they spread from the middle of the bridge to the abutments, with the view of causing the abutments to embrace a greater space on the flooe, to increase the width of the bridge, to accommodate the roadway in turning towards the inclined planes, and to prevent any tendency the bridge might have to side vibrations: the side vibrations will be further opposed by the crofts and diagonal ties and braces, and by the plates or grating which is to be laid across the ribs to receive the roadway. The roadway is to be composed, first, of a light, dry and durable substance, laid next to the iron plates; secondly, of a compact substance, which will not admit of water passing thro' it; and, thirdly, of the side paths and pavements for the driving way.

The whole external form of the bridge is to be composed of Gothic tracery; the railing is also to be of Gothic work, with Gothic pinnacles to receive the lamps; for that the bridge will, as a distance, have the appearance of a frame of light Gothic tracery, finished on the top with that wildness of outline of which the Gothic style is so capable.

The abutments, by the spreading form of the bridge, their connection with the entrances at each end, and with the wharfs at each side of it, will occupy a space so the three sufficient to form an ample foundation for a edifice capable of resisting any pressure whatever. The form and construction of the masonry will also calculated to distribute the resistance through the whole mass, in the manner as if it was a solid rock of equal magnitude: additional strength will also be gained by the land arches, or warehouses, which are under the inclined planes.

By making three entrances or avenues with the additional width of the bridge at each end, advantages nearly equal to those arising from three bridges will be afforded to the public. In all respects, therefore, the bridge will be an original design, as its important situation and distinguished name justly demands.

The scaffolding upon which the iron arch will be turned, is to be formed by driving rows of piles into the river, the top of which to be also row wise determined, so as to be properly braced together; upon them will be raised a proper framing to support the part of the iron work which will rest upon them: at a convenient distance, to admit barges to pass, another set of piles and frames will be fixed, and these frames will also be braced together, at a proper height, for the large opening, with sufficient number of gangways being made quite across the river, so that the whole will become one general frame floor to floor. The top being made to fit the curve of the iron arch, the iron work will then be fixed upon it with facility and ease. The weight of the whole iron work, when distributed over so great a space, is very small, when compared with works constructed with stone. The scaffolding will not, therefore, require to be of the large dimensions which may be at first imagined: the truth of the principles was fully proved by the very ingenious, though apparently slight, scaffolding, over which the arch of Wearmouth was turned; and they may be illustrated by saying, that the greatest stone arches are turned upon centres formed of timber. When the curves of stone have been brought up to near the crown of the arch, on each side, the whole rests upon the timber centres, and in large arches this weight is very great: the centre must, however, be equal to support the weight; otherwise it would give way, and the stone work would fall down.

The iron arch is, in fact, no more than a framing similar to that for the centring for a stone arch, with this difference, that the iron framing has little more to carry than its own weight. The iron work having much more strength than timber, may be made proportionably lighter. In making and putting up timber centres, there must be posts and supports, and the scaffolding for supporting the iron framing may be compared to these posts and supports.

By deepening and embanking the river, much useful space will be gained, and the promenades along each bank of the river, as well as the streets adjoining, and leading from thence into the city, will, by a judicious arrangement, be rendered very valuable. Docks, and public markets for coals, must also be formed under the wharfs, by which means the lightcarge of coals brought from the pool up as far as Blackfriars bridge would be completely saved. This plan is proposed by Mr. Douglass, who has given a full description of it in the Appendix to the third Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons. From his estimates on the general consumption of coal in London, it appears, that the savings in two years will be adequate to the expence of erecting the new iron bridge. This plan merits mature consideration. The coals being regularly supplied, would tend to prevent sudden injurious competition, which of late years has been such a burthen on the public.

If this part of the plan for improving the port of London be successfully executed, we shall no longer be reproached by foreigners, that we convert all the finest views in the world running through our principal city, yet that we have its sufficiently to be a great mealie destroyed by maintaining a filthy flume contract across the most valuable part of it, by suffering its shores to exhibit an extent of mud, instead of converting them into useful wharfs; and it remains to be covered with mean and ill-place's buildings, instead of edifices suited to a noble situation, and worthy the commercial metropolis of Europe.

The following are the amendments made and constructions given to the Constitution of New York, by the Convention assembled to agree to it.

IN CONVENTION OF THE DELEGATES OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

Poughkeepsie, Friday, October 27, 1801.

Whereas the legislature of this state, by their act passed the sixth day of April last, did propose to the citizens of this state, to elect by ballot, Delegates to meet in convention, "for the purpose of considering the parts of the constitution of this state, reflecting the number of Senators and members of Assembly in this state, and with power to reduce and limit the number of them as the said convention might deem proper;—and also, for the purpose of considering, and determining the true construction of the twenty-third article of the constitution of this state, relative to the right of nomination to office;—

And whereas the people of this state have elected the members of this convention for the purposes above expressed; and this convention having maturely considered the subjects thus submitted to their determination, do, in the name and by the authority of the people of this state, ordain, determine, and declare:

First, That the number of the members of the assembly hereafter to be elected shall be one hundred, and shall never exceed one hundred and fifty.

Second, That the legislature at their next session shall apportion the said one hundred members of the assembly among the several counties of this state, as nearly as may be according to the number of electors which shall be found to be in each county by the census directed to be taken in the present year.

Third. That from the first Monday in July next, the senate of the Senators shall permanently thirty-two, and that the present number of senators shall be reduced to thirty-two in the following manner; that in the year 1802, the seats of the eleven Senators composing the first class whose time of service will expire on the first Monday in July next, shall not be filled up; and out of the remaining three classes, the seats of one Senator from the Middle District, and of one Senator from the Southern District, shall be vacated by the Senators of those districts belonging to that class, casting lot among themselves, out of the third class, the seats of two Senators, from the Middle District, and of one Senator from the Eastern District, shall be vacated in the same manner; out of the second class, the seats of one Senator from the Middle District, of one Senator from the Eastern District, and of one Senator from the Western District, shall be vacated in the same manner; out of the fourth class, the seats of one Senator from the Middle District, shall be vacated in the same manner. And that eight Senators shall be chosen at the next election in such districts as the legislature shall direct, for the purpose of apportioning the whole number of Senators, amongst the four great Districts of this state, as nearly as may be, according to the number of electors found to be in each county by the census directed to be taken in the present year.

Third. That from the first Monday in July next, the number of the Senators be permanently thirty-two, and that the present number of senators shall be reduced to thirty-two in the following manner; that in the year 1802, the seats of the eleven Senators composing the first class whose time of service will expire on the first Monday in July next, shall not be filled up; and out of the remaining three classes, the seats of one Senator from the Middle District, and of one senator from the Southern District, shall be vacated by the senators of those districts belonging to that class, casting lot among themselves, out of the third class, the seats of two senators, from the Middle District, and of one senator from the Eastern District, shall be vacated in the same manner; out of the second class, the seats of one senator from the Middle District, of one senator from the Eastern District, and of one senator from the Western District, shall be vacated in the same manner. And that eight senators shall be chosen at the next election in such districts as the legislature shall direct, for the purpose of apportioning the whole number of senators, amongst the four great Districts of this state, as nearly as may be, according to the number of electors found to be in each county by the census directed to be taken in the present year.

Fourth. That from the first Monday in July next and on the return of every census thereafter, the number of the assembly shall be encreased at the rate of two members for every year until the whole number shall amount to one hundred and fifty, and that upon the return of every such census, the legislature shall apportion the senators and members of the assembly amongst the great districts and counties of this state, as nearly as may be, according to the number of their respective electors, provided that the legislature shall not be prohibited by this article, from assembling, from allowing one member of assembly to each county heretofore erected within this state.

Fifth. And this convention do further ordain and by the authority of the people of this state, ordain, determine and declare, that by the true construction of the twenty third article of the constitution of this state, the right of nomination to all officers other than those who by the constitution are directed to be otherwise appointed, is vested concurrently in the person administering the government of this state for the time being, and in each of the members of the council of appointment.

FROM THE NEW ENGLAND PALLADIUM.

COURT MARTIAL.

TRIAL OF CAPTAIN LITTLE.

We present our readers with the sentence of the court martial in the affair of Captain Little, and the letter of the secretary of the navy approving the same. As the defence made by captain Little's counsel, Mr. Otis, contains a statement of the evidence much more diffusive at the time of trial, we have obtained a copy of it, which precedes the sentence.

THE DEFENCE.

Mr. President, and
Gentlemen of the Court.

UPON a review of the evidence exhibited in the prosecution of captain Little, I am unable to discern the least foundation for impeaching his conduct as an officer or as a man. Unbiassed in his with the examination of any witnesses in his favor, except those who have been adduced to invalidate the testimony of

those manifold contradictions would alone deprive him of credit. It would betray a want of confidence in the judgment and discernment of the court, to occupy their time in the examination of witnesses to prove charges, which are entirely unsupported by any evidence, except that of captain Little, to presume that any other justification of his proceedings can be necessary, but what is already established by the witnesses for the prosecution. From those confederations, though surrounded by credible persons, who were spectators of all his transactions in relation to the Berceau and her crew, which were all public and undisguised, he cheerfully foresaws to call them into court, and rests his defence upon the utter deficiency of the evidence produced against him. He should I upon an ordinary occasion, deem it incumbent upon counsel to make any remarks in exculpation of a defendant against whom no accusation is supported by a shadow of proof. But when the most audacious practices have been employed to ruin the reputation of a brave officer, who, like yourselves, was engaged in our revolutionary conflict, and was distinguished as a man without fear and without reproach; when efforts are made to tear from his brow his fair and well verdant