on a privation or absence of political morality and sense of obligation on which all our institutions rest. The constitution cannot exist if this principle become extinct. The formation of this House, which is the democratic branch of the government, how is it effected? In apportioning the representation of the several states the words of the constitution are—"The state of New-Hampshire shall be entitled to three representatives." Suppose the people of the state of New-Hampshire had declined to choose their representatives—has this House the power to compel that state to exercise this right? They have not—and if other states had, from whatever motives pursued a similar course—this House could not have been formed, and the constitution must have been defeated. A sense of interest and of political obligation are the basis and the security of the constitution, and distinguish the people and government of this from those of other countries—if you presume on its absence you discourage, you diminish, you destroy it. "If the House of Representatives shall not choose." The House of Representatives will not refuse—they will not dare to refuse—the transaction which is passed proves they dare not defeat the will of the people. But if you make this amendment, you furnish them with an apology, with an excuse, with a justification for refusing; and what is worse, you tempt them to refuse; you presume at least that they may refuse. The high responsibility imposed on the House by the constitution is destroyed. This provision will pleaded in justification of their refusal to make a choice—and when they shall refuse, what is to be the consequence? The officer whom it is intended to be defeated by the first resolution, is promoted—the man whom the people never intended to be President, the Vice-President becomes President of the United States. The Vice-Presidency will thenceforth become the office of importance to be secured in the government, and by the means, and with the temptations which will be in his power to offer and to use, he will finally become President.

I am sensible this is a provision in the last resort, and which cannot take effect excepting in case of a failure of two other processes, that of the electors first, and that of the House in the second instance—and I am also sensible that the three provisions for securing a President stand separate from each other—but it is true, and it will be found in practice, that they have each a relation to and bearing on the other. The responsibility of the electors will be diminished—the House of Representatives will feel less responsibility, encouragement will be given to intrigue, and the means which have been perhaps too often alluded to on this floor, will receive a facility in the hands of the person who shall be chosen Vice-President, which may become dangerous to the public peace and destructive to the public happiness.

These are the objections which I made to the resolution under consideration: a review of the subject has not diminished them. We continue to approve the designating principle—we approve the number 5 of candidates from which the House is to make a choice when the election shall be brought there, my friend from Virginia was with us in opinion on these points; our affirmative vote is on the journals, if there be any change of opinion, that change is not with us, it is the majority of the House who have changed. And what reason is assigned for the change? What is the reason assigned by the gentleman from Virginia? That this is the best or the most he can attain, or that as he gains the discriminating principle he is willing to take the two other amendments which the Senate have added. We ask to be satisfied that we are reduced to this alternative, it is not satisfactory to be told that the Senate will not recede when they shall be made acquainted with the objections of the House; we ask for an intercourse with them—we desire that the rules of procedure in ordinary business be observed in this. With this view I moved yesterday that the resolution might be committed; that we might send a message to the Senate asking an answer to the proposal made to them for their concurrence in the resolution which passed the House, or to propose a committee of conference. The motion was negatived—it was said not to have been a custom in this government to send such an order or message. Without pretensions to much experience, I know it must be in order—I know it must be consistent with parliamentary rule to send messages of this nature. In what other manner is the sense of one House to be made known to the other? On a subject of this importance where there appears a difference of sentiment in the two Houses, some intercourse ought to be had, and some explanation is required, perhaps the Senate when they shall become possessed of the objections of the House will be willing to recede from one or both the alterations which they have made in our resolution. When we ask them to institute this enquiry, gentlemen rise in their places and tell us, the Senate will not recede, and this is all we can have—this is not satisfactory—By what means can gentlemen know this? It is due to those who object, and it is due to the House that the enquiry should be made—that the ordinary course should be pursued. The resolution in the mean time will remain in custody of the House, and if there shall be a conviction that the Senate will give up nothing for the sake of accommodation, it may finally be adopted; until this course shall have been pursued it is unreasonable to press a decision. Many gentlemen who approve of the designating principle are opposed to the amendments proposed by the Senate. Some of those gentlemen have expressed their disapprobation—some of them will be compelled to vote against the resolution if insisted on at this time.

On the subject of amendments generally, two of my colleagues have expressed sentiments not founded in a knowlege of the letter or spirit of the constitution. One of them a reverend gentleman (Mr. Taggart,) speaking of the constitution of Massachusetts, ascribed great wisdom to the framers of that instrument, because they had provided that it should not be amended until after the expiration of 15 years—that within that term an insurrection had prevailed in the state, and if the constitution had admitted of being amended, or altered at that time, the temper and disposition of what he has called the public mind was such as would have cast the state afloat in the ocean of anarchy. Sir, that worthy gentleman is not acquainted with the constitution of his own state. That constitution is bottomed on the principle that the people have at all times a right to alter, to amend and to change their form of government, whenever their own interest or their own happiness, shall in their own opinion require it.

Impressed with this principle, the framers of that constitution, provided by an expressed article, that the General Court, which should be in session fifteen years after the adoption *shall issue precepts* to the several towns, and plantations, calling a convention in order to take the sense of the people whether they wished for any alteration. Understanding their own constitution and knowing that they have at all times the right to alter and amend it, the people of that state have rested easy under it without alteration.

With respect to the federal constitution, are gentlemen ignorant of the difficulty with which the convention of Massachusetts finally adopted it? Do they recollect that amendments were for a long time insisted on as a condition of the ratification? that the people of that state having gone through the war under a federative government very different from this—were afraid of the powers granted by the new constitution—that their fears were extensive and influential, and that this constitution was finally adopted, because, it carried within itself the means of being altered and amended as time and experience should suggest? and because the state legislatures as well as Congress had the right to institute amendments?

One of the gentlemen (Mr. Thatcher) has quoted an authority to which every member of this House will bend with respect and attention—but the passage he has quoted, makes directly against him—while we are cautioned against alterations under the garb of amendments, we are invited to adopt such as "experience" shall recommend, and the object of this amendment so far as it respects the designating principle is suggested by experience: that the true way to preserve the affections of the people for this constitution, is, to recur to the principle and conditions with which it was adopted, and instead of objecting to give facility to such amendments as experience shall suggest.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers indebted for the National Intelligencer are respectfully reminded that, according to the terms of that Paper, unless payment be immediately made, it will be discontinued. It will be recollected that an annual advance payment of five dollars is required.

NOTICE.

THE Inhabitants of Washington city and all others concerned are hereby informed, that the assessment by order of the corporation of Washington for the year 1803, is now compleat, and that the tax on real and personal property must be paid at the City Treasurers office on or before the first day of March next. The owners of slaves and dogs are also informed that the tax on the same must be paid on or before the first day of February next.

WASHINGTON BOYD, City Treasurer.

Jan. 13—5t1aw

CITY TAXES.

Notice is hereby given that the

Board of Appeal

On contested valuations of property under the several acts of the corporation relating to the valution of property, will meet on Monday the 23d inst. at the office of the Treasurer of the city and continue their meetings for two weeks thereafter, to whom all and every person who feel aggrieved by the late assessment of property in the city, may apply for redress.

ROBERT BRENT, Mayor, of the city of Washington.

Jan. 13—12t

WASHINGTON CITY

FRIDAY January 13, 1802,

By letters from KENTUCKY we learn that the amendment to the constitution respecting the mode of electing a President and Vice President had passed the Senate with but one dissenting vote; and had, without opposition, gone to a third reading in the House of Representatives, where no doubt is entertained of its final passage.

Other letters state the final passage of the amendment.

The Legislature of the state of OHIO have also ratified the amendment.

All the Legislatures of the states, that have been in session since the proposition of the amendment, have ratified it, to wit: North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and Ohio.

Amendment to the constitution ratified by Virginia.

Extract from the Journal of the Senate, December 31, 1803.

Mr. Allen reported from the committee to whom was committed the amendment proposed by congress to the constitution of the United States, with the resolution annexed, for the ratification of the same by the legislature of this state. That the committee had, according to order, had the same under their consideration, and had made several amendments to the said resolution, which he delivered in with the same.

And the said amendments being severally twice read, were on the questions thereupon being put, agreed to by the House.

The said amendment proposed by Congress to the constitution of the United States, and the resolution for the ratification of the same by the legislature of this state with the amendments thereto, were again read, and are as follows:

Resolved, By the general assembly of Virginia, that the amendment to the constitution of the United States proposed at the first session of the eighth congress, by a resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in congress assembled, to the several state legislatures, be, and the same is hereby upon the part of this legislature, ratified and made a part of the constitution of the United States, which amendment is in the following words:

(The amendment is here inserted)

And on the question thereupon being put, the said amendment and resolution for ratifying the same, were agreed to by the House—Ayes 17——No. 1.

The American Philosophical Society met on Friday, the sixth inst. for the election of the officers for the ensuing year, when the following gentlemen were duly chosen.

President—THOMAS JEFFERSON.
Vice President—Robert Patterson, Casper Wistar, Benjamin Smith Barton.
Secretaries—John Redman Coxe, Adam Seybert, Thomas C. James, Thomas T. Hewson,
Counsellors for three years.—William White, Jonathan B. Smith, Peter S. Duponceau, Adam Kuhn.
Curators—Charles W. Peale, Robert Hare, jun. John Church.
Treasurer—John Vaughan.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, January 11.

Dr. Mitchill, from the committee of Commerce and Manufacturer, on a resolution instructing them to enquire whether any and what additions are necessary to be made to the Naval establishment of the United States, and the bill from the Senate for the sale of the General Green, &c.—made a report, stating that in their opinion no addition to the Navy is at present necessary, and that it will be expedient instead of selling, to convert, the General Green into a store ship.

Referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

Mr. J. Randolph moved that William Cowan, agent of the Virgina Yazoo Company, be heard by counsel at the bar of this House on Monday next in support of the claim of said company.

After some conversation on the propriety of the motion, the Yeas and Nays were taken on it—Yeas 61—Nays 45.

A like motion was then made to hear counsel in behalf of the South Carolina Yazoo Company.

Mr. Meriwether moved to enlarge the motion, so as to allow counsel in behalf of all the claimants to be heard.

It being suggested that it would be time enough to extend this privilege when desired,

This motion was disagreed to—Ayes 42—Noes 45.

The motion previously made was then agreed to—Yeas 67—Nays 46.

The House went into committee of the whole—on the bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish armed ships Meshouda and Mirboka.

Mr. VARNUM in the chair—The committee reported the bill without amendment, and the House concurred in their report, and ordered the bill to a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. J. Randolph moved the recommitment of the 3d section of the bill farther to amend the act laying a direct tax.

Mr. G. W. Campbell moved to recommit the whole bill.—Carried—and made the order for to-day.

The House immediately went into committee on the bill—Mr. VARNUM in the chair—The bill having undergone amendment, the committee rose, asked and obtained leave to sit again.

THURSDAY, January 12, 1804.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. *Varnum* in the chair——on the report of the committee of Claims, for enabling the President of the United States to make restitution to the owners of the Danish Brigantine, called the Henrick.

The report, after considerable debate, was agreed to by a large majority in the committee and then in the House, and the committee of Claims ordered to bring in a bill conformably to the report.

ERRATA

In Mr. Thatcher's Speech in Monday's paper.

In the first page, fourth column, and at the end of the fourth paragraph—for *majority* read *minority*.

In the fifth column, and ninth line from the top—for *contracted* read *controuled.*

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

In the House of Representatives,

Wednesday the 7th Dec. 1803.

THE select committee to whom was referred the papers and documents relative to a charge or accusation of one Zachariah Cox against the honorable major general James Jackson,

REPORT,

That your committee have taken the said papers and documents under their serious consideration, and a number of other documents relating to the Tennessee deposit, and beg leave to recommend the following resolution.

Whereas information has been laid before this Legislature from which it does appear that the political reputation and personal integrity of the honorable James Jackson, have been vilified and traduced by one Zachariah Cox, who has asserted that the said honorable gentleman did receive when governor of this state a proportion of the Tennessee deposit as a reward or douceur for his assent to the drawing out of the treasury of this state certain sums of the said deposit, to which the said Zachariah Cox pretended to be entitled. Now,

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the state of Georgia in General Assembly met, And it is hereby resolved by the authority of the same that the conduct of that hon. gentleman during his administration as governor of this state was characterised with honesty and disinterestedness, and that his reputation stands too high in the opinion of this legislature and his fellow citizens at large to be affected by any malicious assertions or insinuations whatever.

And the same being read was unanimously agreed to.

Extract from the Journal,
JOEL ABBOT,
Speaker, pro tem.
Test. HINES HOLT, Clk.

In Senate, 7th December 1803.
Read and unanimously concurred in:
DAVID EMANUEL,
President of Senate.
WILL. ROBERTSON, Sec.

Executive Department 8th Dec, 1803.
Presented read and approved of.
JOHN MILLEDGE, Governor.
Test. JAs. BOZEMAN, Sec. E. D.

Lexington, (Ken.) *Dec.* 27.

The following resolutions passed the house of representatives of this state on Thursday the 8th inst. And on Monday the Senate concurred therein, with only one dissenting voice, viz. colonel Moore, from the county of Jefferson.

Extract from the Journal of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Hopkins moved to take up the resolution, which was laid on the table the first of this instant, approbatory of the measures of the general government. And the same being read, Mr. Cosby moved the following as an amendment—Strike out the whole of the former resolution, and substitute the following, in lieu thereof:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, That the present administration of the Federal government, is entitled to, and does receive the unfeigned approbation of this legislature for its intelligent, upright and economical administration of the Federal government.

Resolved, also, that the course pursued by the President, and the last and present congress of the United States, in adjusting the differences which had unfortunately arisen with the Spanish government, and in procuring the cession of Louisiana through the peaceful means of negociation, and to obtain the possession of the same, is founded on a correct understanding of the national honor, the legitimate principles of national justice, and is best calculated to promote the peace, prosperity and happiness of America.

Which being twice read Mr. Rowan moved to lay the same on the table to the end of the session.

And the question being taken, it passed in the negative.

The yeas and nays being required by Messrs. Rowan and Welch, were—Yeas 3—Nays 52.

The question was then taken on adopting the amendment in lieu of the original resolution, it passed in the affirmative.

Mr. Rowan then moved to divide the question on the said resolutions. And the question being taken on the first resolution: the same was unanimously agreed to. The question was then taken on the second, it passed in the affirmative.

The yeas and nays being required by Messrs. Russell and Taylor, were—Yeas 54—Nay 1.

New York, Jan. 6.

CAPE FRANCOIS—It has, we understand, been currently reported in the city, that Cape Francois was evacuated on the first of December. From the following circumstances, we presume the report is incorrect.

A French gentleman, who arrived in this city yesterday, from Norfolk, and who sailed from St Jago de Cuba on the 12th of December, informs, that two days before he sailed, a Spanish Fallouche, (a long vessel with lattin sails) arrived thither from Cape Francois; that the vessel left the Cape on the 5th of December, and that on the 29th of November, an attack was made on that place by the brigands. They passed through the different block-houses, which form a line of defence round the city, and even entered Champ de Mars, where they were defeated with immense slaughter. They retired some distance, where they were still encamped on the 5th of December, when the Spanish vessel left that city.

New-York, January 7.

Captain Burke, of the brig Nancy from Norfolk, informs us that previous to his departure, a brig had arrived there from London, with intelligence to the 12th of November, two days later than our former advises: but that no political event of importance had occurred, nor had any additional measures been adopted for carrying into effect the proposed invasion of Great-Britain.

PROCLAMATION
of
DESSALINES, CHRISTOPHE & CLERVEAUX,
Chiefs of St. Domingo,

In the name of the black people and men of colour of St. Domingo.

THE independence of St. Domingo is proclaimed. Restored to our primitive dignity, we have claimed our rights; we swear never to yield them to any power on earth. The frightful veil of prejudice is torn to pieces, and is so forever. Woe be to whomsoever would dare again to put together its bloody tatters.

O! Landholders of St. Domingo, wandering in foreign countries, by proclaiming our independence, we do not intend to forbid you indiscriminately from returning to your property. Far be from us this unjust idea. We are not ignorant, that there are some among you, that have renounced their old errors, abjured the injustice of their exorbitant pretensions, and acknowledged the lawfulness of the cause for which we have been spilling our blood these twelve years. Towards these men who do us justice, we will act as brothers; let them rely forever on our esteem and friendship; let them return among us. The God who protected us, the God of freemen, bids us to stretch out towards them our conquering arms. But as for those who, intoxicated with a foolish pride and interested slaves to a guilty pretension, are blinded so much as to think that they are the essence of human nature, and affect to believe that they are destined by Heaven to be our masters and our tyrants, let them never come near the land of St. Domingo; if they come hither, they will meet only with chains and deportation; let them stay then where they are; and tormented by their well deserved misery, and the frowns of the just men that they have but too long mocked at, let them continue to move the pity and concern of nobody.

We have sworn not to listen to clemency towards all those who would dare