will proceed to state what in my humble opinion will be the good effects resulting from an adoption of the resolution. In the first place I believe it to be certain that the state of Delaware will be relieved from the most distressing embarrassments. In the next place we shall remove a bone of contention, which in all probability would on some future occasion, be the cause of some great legislative bargain, that in effect may be extremely injurious to the union. The unusual anxiety of the members upon this subject at this time, justifies a belief that this will be the case, particularly, should any attempt ever be made to collect the balances. In the third place we shall prevent a future waste of much of the precious time of this House on a subject which tends to excite too highly the feelings of a large portion of its members; and lastly, we shall take from those who may succeed us, and be disposed to add to the national debt, a pretext which would be but too favorable to their designs.

As then I do not see that any real injury can, but on the contrary, that very considerable benefits certainly will follow, from carrying the object of the resolution into effect. I shall conclude with expressing my earnest hope that it may meet with the support of a majority of the committee.

(To be continued.)

REPORT,

On the expediency of amending the several laws, providing for the sale of the public lands of the United States.
[*CONCLUDED.*]

III. Whatever revenue may be derived from that source will be collected in the most simple manner, and will be completely secured. There will be no outstanding debts, and the interest of every new purchaser will become identified with that of the union.

IV. It has already been observed that the sales have not, by any means, been commensurate with the demand for land, and the encrease of population; they have been limited partly by the competition of other lands in the market, and partly by the existing means of payment. Under the system, altered as has been suggested, they would be limited only by the last cause, and be altogether regulated by the amount of circulating medium acquirable by the purchasers. It is evident, indeed, that it would be more easy to sell 300,000 acres at a dollar and a third, than 200,000 acres at two dollars per acre; and no doubt is entertained that the revenue would be not only secured but also encreased by the proposed alterations.

The only difference to the United States will be that they will transfer the property of a greater quantity of land for the same sum of money than they do at present. The estimated revenue of 400,000 dollars derived from that source, is predicated on annual sales of 200,000 acres at two dollars, or rather of about 212,000 acres at one dollar and eighty four cents per acre; 266 666 acres at one dollar and an half, or 320,000 acres at one dollar and twenty five cents per acre, would produce an equal sum. It would, therefore, under the proposed alterations, cost annually to the United States about one hundred thousand acres more than at present, to raise a revenue equal to that which may be collected under the existing regulations. Compared with the quantity of land north of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi not less certainly than one hundred and fifty millions of acres, the soil of which belongs to the United States, that difference is so trifling and the effect which, in that respect, may result from the alteration, so distant, that neither of them seems to afford sufficient ground of objection.

A more serious difficulty will arise from former purchasers, who may complain that they should be left in a worse situation than those who shall purchase under the new arrangement. It is true that those persons who have had the selection of the most eligible spots in point of situation and of soil; yet under all circumstances, and also in order to secure punctual payments, it might be expedient to release them from the payment of interest until after their instalments had become due. That provision, which it is believed would be perfectly satisfactory, should be extended only in favor of those who shall discharge those instalments with punctuality, and who have not alienated the property. In the few cases where the purchasers have already completed their payments, certificates receivable in payment for land might be given to them for the sums which may have been charged for interest.

It is believed that the alterations which have been suggested, will enable a great portion of the actual settlers to become purchasers: But the principle of granting them a right of pre emption, exclusively of the abuses to which it is liable, appears irreconcileable with the idea of drawing a revenue from the sale of lands. Nor would the reduction of price and especially the sale in smaller tracts, be an eligible measure so far as respects the revenue, unless connected with a suppression of the credit which is now given to purchasers.

Should those outlines be adopted, it may be proper to provide that before the reduction either in the price or in the size of the tracts shall take place, all the lands shall be offered at public sale as on a similar occasion had been directed by the act passed on the 10th of May, 1800; and some other modifications of less importance, though not immediately connected with that part of the subject may at the same time be taken under consideration.

The powers of the surveyor general extend only over the lands lying north of the river Ohio, and above the mouth of the river Kentucky; it seems proper, on account of the late purchases, that they should be extended over all the public lands lying north of the Ohio, and east of the Mississippi; for the surveys of the lands above the mouth of Kentucky, to which the Indian title has been extinguished, being nearly completed, it is hardly necessary to create a new office for the others; and it would be useful to provide that that officer should also ascertain by astronomical observations the situations of some of the most important points of that part of the country.

The surveys are now executed by assistants, appointed by the surveyor general, whose offices cease with the completion of their work. For the purpose of making legal re-surveys, when called on by the parties; of surveying and marking the lines which, in conformity with the mode prescribed by law, have been left open; and also of subdividing the tracts into quarter sections, in pursuance of the proposed modifications, it would be eligible to have "district surveyors" appointed, who should receive for their several services, stated fees to be paid by the parties for whose benefit they may be rendered. That arrangement, exclusively of other advantages would preclude the necessity of any advance from the treasury for the subdivision of lands into quarter sections.

Whatever price it may be thought proper to fix on the lands, it will be more simple and convenient for the purchasers, that with the exception of the last mentioned expense, the several fees now paid to the United States for surveying expences and for entry and certificates, and which in the purchase of an half section, amount altogether to about three cents and an half per acre should be incorporated with the price.

The receivers of public monies receive now one per cent. on all the monies paid into the treasury, and the registers one half per cent. on the same, besides the fees, amounting to about two thirds per cent. more, the suppression of which is submitted. Those compensations are much lower in proportion to the revenue collected than those allowed to most of the officers employed in the collection of the other revenues of the union, and appear inadequate to the responsibility attached to the officers and to the rate of talents and knowledge necessary to discharge their duties. The propriety of encreasing the commission of both offices one half per cent. and of giving to each of them a small annual salary as an equivalent for clerk hire and office rent, is respectfully submitted. The salary might in that instance be 500 dollars to each officer, those of the Marrietta district excepted, for whom 250 dollars would be sufficient. This, on account of the suppression of the register's fees would give a greater encrease to the registers; which, considering the risk attached to the safe keeping of the public monies, appears reasonable.

The expediency of excluding the reserved sections from the sales is doubtful, as the destruction of timber is perhaps more than equivalent to the supposed encrease of value, and it is particularly complained of in the Steubenville district, and in the tract lying between the two Miamis, where the greater part of the adjacent lands is sold and occupied.

The preceding observations have been made only in relation to the lands north of the river Ohio. It would be expedient to apply many of the regulations, which have been submitted, to the public lands south of the state of Tennessee, and I will beg leave to make a separate communication affecting the operation of the law passed during the last session on that subject.

I have the honor to be,
Very respectfully,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ALBERT GALLATIN.

Hon. Joseph H. Nicholson,
Chairman, &c.

A GREAT BARGAIN.

FOR sale or exchange for CITY LOTS, a valuable Plantation and Iron works, separate within seven miles of navigable water on James River—for further particulars, apply to
ROBERT W. PEACOCK,
Att'y at law and Conveyancer.
Feb. 10—3t

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1804.

LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT.

On the 25th ult. the House of Representatives took into consideration the AMENDMENT proposed to the Constitution respecting the mode of electing a President and Vice-President.

A letter from Mr. Elliot, (the organ of the House in submitting to Congress their desire to amend the Constitution) assigning his reasons for the vote he had given against the amendment, was offered; on the reading of which a warm debate ensued, that issued in its being read.

Mr. Olin moved a resolution declaring the majorities, by which the amendment passed the two Houses of Congress, unconstitutional. After a debate of two days this motion was rejected by a majority of fifteen.

After this decision a wide field of debate was opened upon the merits of the amendment, which remained unclosed on the 29th ult. (Saturday) when the House adjourned until Monday.

Letters received state the expectation, entertained by the friends of the amendment, that it will succeed by a majority of fifteen in the House of Representatives, and by a large majority in the Council.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9.

Mr. John C. Smith from the committee of Claims, presented a bill for the relief of certain Military pensioners in the state of South Carolina—Referred to a committee of the whole on Friday.

A representation of Duncan M'Farland, accompanied with sundry documents complaining of the undue election of Samuel D. Purviance, was presented, and referred to the committee of Elections.

A message was received from the Senate stating that they had receded from their third amendment to the bill making military appropriations, which allowed a certain sum for the postage of letters sent from and received by certain officers of the War department—and that they had resolved that the bill "for the better direction of the collectors of the respective ports of the United States in granting to seamen certificates of citizenship," should not pass.

The House resumed the consideration of the resolution reported by the committee of the whole, submitting to the final decision of commissioners, the claims for lands ceded by Georgia to the United States;—and after debate which occupied the whole day, adjourned without coming to any decision.

The following are the YEAS and NAYS on agreeing to the amendment of the Senate, to make NATCHEZ a Port of Entry.

YEAS—Messrs. Alston, junr. Anderson, Archer, Baldwin, Bard, Bedinger, Betton, Bishop, Bowie, Boyd, G. W. Campbell, J. Campbell, Chamberlin, Chittenden, Claggett, Claiborne, Clay, Clopton, Conrad, Cutler, Cutts, Dana, Davenport, Dawson, Dennis, Dickson, Dwight, Elliot, Elmer, Fowler, Goodwyn, Gray, Gregg, G. Griswold, R. Griswold, Hammond, Hastings, Helms, Hoge, Holland, Hough, Huger, Jackson, Kennedy, Knight, Lucas, Lyon, Meriwether, N. Mitchell, Morrow, Mott, New, Olin, Palmer, Patterson, Phelps, Plater, T. M. Randolph, J. Rhea, (of Tennessee,) Rodney, Root, Sandford, Seaver, Skinner, Sloan, J. C. Smith, J. Smith (of Virginia,) Southard, Stedman, Stephenson, Stewart, Taggart, Tenney, Thatcher, Thomas, Thompson, A. Trigg J. Trigg, Van Rensselaer, Verplank, Walton, L. Williams, M. Williams, & Winn—84.

NAYS—Messrs. Alexander, Blackledge, Boyle, Brown, Bryan, J. Clay, Crowingshield, Earle, Early, Eustis, Findley, Gillispie, Griffin, Hasbrouck, J. Heister, Holmes, Hunt, Jones, Leib, M'Cord, M'Creery, S. L. Mitchill, N. R. Moore, T. Moore, Newton, junior Nicholson, Purviance, J. Randolph, J. Rea, (of Pennsylvania,) Richards, Sammons, Sands, Smilie, J. Smith, (of New-York,) Stanford, Stanton, Van Cortlandt, Varnum, Whitehill, and Wynns, 40.

THE SOUTH-CAROLINA COLLEGE.

With much pleasure we announce to our fellow-citizens, that the buildings of this institution are in such forwardness, as to induce the trustees at their last meeting to resolve, that they will proceed to the election of a President and professor on the 22d of April next. We believe that no seminary of learning in the United States, possesses more liberal endowments than this. The salary of the president is settled at 2,500 dollars, besides a house for his residence—that of the professors of natural philosophy, &c. 1,500 dollars each, and their board and lodging; and of each of the other professors, 1000 dollars, and their board and lodging. The buildings will consist of two ranges, each 250 feet in length. The philosophical apparatus will be equal, if not superior, to any collection in America; and the library will open with near 5000 volumes of the most select books, in all branches of learning. The whole of which we are informed, is expected out from London in the spring of the present year. The situation of Columbia for such an establishment is certainly very eligible; the buildings are erected on an eminence that commands a most extensive prospect, and from its elevation, insures a free and salubrious circulation of air. The confluence of Broad and Saluda rivers, just above, and the rich country that lies below it, will always secure an abundant supply of the best provisions, while its communication with Charleston by water carriage, will enable the inhabitants to procure every convenience or even elegance of life at a moderate rate. That the place is healthy, no one will doubt, who observes the large families that are raised there, and the complexion of the inhabitants; on the point of cheapness there can be as little doubt of its eligibility, if, as we are informed, the tuition and room rent will cost but 20 dollars, and board not above 90 dollars; upon the whole, there is every reason to hope from the above considerations, and its central position as to the states of North-Carolina, South-Carolina, and Georgia, that it will soon be a flourishing institution. Much, very much depends upon the choice of the president and professors; and we are authorised to say, that any communications on this subject, free of cost, directed to "the president and trustees of the South-Carolina College" in this place, will be thankfully received; and the printers throughout the United States will do a service to the cause of learning by circulating this communication.

Charleston paper.

LONDON, November 23.

MEDIATION OF RUSSIA.

In answer to some observations by Mr. Fox, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, it was true Lord Hawkesbury had stated, "that the mediation of Russia would be accepted 'if offered.'" And the mediation of that power had been offered and accepted; in consequence of which discussion did take place, which, he was sorry to say, did not, in their result, hold out the prospect of a practical arrangement between this country and France. He hoped circumstances would permit them to lay the papers on that subject before Parliament in a few days.

His Majesty's ship Poulette, on the 15th inst. near the island of Alderney, fell in with 30 of the French flat bottomed boats, escorted by several armed vessels. They were immediately attacked, and having no chance of escape were all run on the rocks; a brig, lugger, and a sloop were taken possession of, and brought off. Those left, being considerably injured by the fire upon them, and the badness of their situation, it is supposed will never be fit for service again.

Sir Sidney Smith arrived in town on the 16th inst. After an interview with the Lords of the Admiralty, he will embark and proceed with his squadron off Flushing.

Some people conjecture that offensive operations are in contemplation against some part of the French Coast.

The East India Company have liberally voted 10,000 tons of shipping as armed transports for the protection of the coast.

All the demands of Gen. Mortier for the passage of French troops through the Prussian Territory have been complied with.

A Prussian vessel, arrived in the river, from Amsterdam, reports, that the trade of that city, and of Rotterdam, had become nearly suspended, in consequence of the blockade by the English, & of the arbitrary & lawless interference of the French in almost every object of domestic economy, as well as of political relation. French Custom-house Officers have been appointed at every port, to controul the Dutch Officers, and to inforce the prohibition against the importation of British manufactures.

The English vessels at Lubec, have received notice to quit that place without a moment's delay, as the French are expected to take possession of it. Hamburg is likewise to be invaded, except the demand of a loan is complied with. The British Envoy, it is said, has told the Senate that if they consent all Hamburg property in England will be confiscated.

At Bilboa, when it was learnt that the British government had prohibited vessels sailing without convoy whose destination made it necessary for them to pass the Spanish Coast, orders were issued for detaining the vessels loaded with wool, and bound to England.

November 25.

Yesterday we had three Hamburg mails, and yet not a word more about the French loan or designs against the Hanse Towns.

It is said British troops have again been sent to Egypt, and allowed by the Beys to occupy the forts.

November 27.

Orders are understood to have been sent from Paris to the several departments of France to discontinue the building of the gun boats. We know that the camps near Bologne have been broken up, and the soldiers directed to march to the western coast. Uncommon efforts are making by the French to equip their fleet at Brest, and it is generally believed that the ships, &c. there are to be crowded with troops, and the first favorable moment seized to make an attempt on Ireland. The flat bottomed craft in the different ports, it is presumed, will be carefully preserved for an ultimate attempt on England. Admiral Cornwallis has thus far been able to keep his station off Brest, notwithstanding a number of severe storms have been experienced. It is almost 8 months since he was in port. The enemy can only hope to get out when he is driven from the coast by a hurricane, which must of course, also be a dangerous time for them to put to sea.—The French vessels at Brest are stated at 9 or 10 sail of the line, 9 or 10 frigates, several transports, about 79 gun-boats, and a number of cannoniers, each of which latter vessels is said to be able to carry 100 men.

Vice Admiral Bligh is appointed to command on the coast of Scotland.

The establishment of so large a force as is now assembled on the French and Flemish coasts, is attended with an expence which the resources of the country cannot long sustain. All the neighbouring Provinces have been drained of provisions, and the necessary supplies are now, for the greater part, drawn from the interior.

Government has determined that if any gallic troops effect a landing, the stock exchange shall be closed, to prevent any bargains injurious to the credit of the country.

S. THOMEE.

BEGS leave to inform his friends that he has removed his store from George Town to King street Alexandria, where orders in his line will be executed with punctuality and dispatch. Orders left at Mr. March's Book-store will be duly attended to.

GILDING

AND ENAMELLING ON GLASS,

A few doors above the Washington tavern—Looking glass and picture frames made and regilt.

NEEDLE WORK

Framed in the handsomest manner, and names done on glass.

S. THOMEE, as a stranger being determined to establish in the line of his profession, solicits that encouragement alone which he trusts the reasonableness of his charges and his assiduity to business may entitle him to.

Window cornices handsomely gilt, and every in thing his line done to please the fancy of the owner equal to any imported.

N. B. He has some glasses and prints for sale on low terms.

Jan. 9——ep3m

STOP THE THIEF.
Ten Dollars Reward.

ON Sunday the 8th inst. came to the house of Mr. Peter Meem in George Town, Potomac, as a boarder, a man about 25 years of age, had on a blue or brown coat, a waistcoat with stripes across the breast, green corduroy pantaloons, loose black hair, sometimes turned up under his hat, has a strange look with his eyes. Some time in the night following he went off and stole a rough blue surtout coat, with large blue pockets in the haunches lined with green baize, a single cased silver watch with a painted image on the face, a pair of boots with black tassels and square toes, the boots will be rather large for him, a pair of shoes lined and bound, almost new. From information received since he made his escape it appears his name is John Law, by trade a cabinet maker, said he served his time with Mr. John Law of Baltimore, who he said was his cousin, it is supposed he is gone into Virginia, by Leesburgh or Winchester. The above reward will be paid by the subscribers to any person who will secure said thief so that he is brought to justice, and all reasonable charges paid.

SAML. COLLINGWOOD.
NICHOLAS HILLARY.

Jan. 30—w3t

N. B. In the pockets of the surtout there was a small Psalm book with the name Ann Collingwood in the front with her age and time of her death, the loss of which is much regretted, as it is expected he will throw it away, any person finding it and will leave it at Mr. Meem's in George Town, will be thankfully rewarded.