Dutch and French fleets are able to escape the vigilance and activity of the British squadrons. But be this plan as it may, the *hostile determination of Spain is beyond every possibility of a doubt.*"

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 2.

Tranquility may now be expected to be soon restored in Egypt. The Grand Seignior has addressed a Firman to the Beys, by which he pardons them their former conduct, and guarantees their continuance in Egypt as before, under condition that they shall annually send considerable presents to Mecca, pay the tax called the Mire (a land tax) and agree to a new regulation of taxes. The Beys have already accepted these conditions.

BOSTON, March 8.

LATEST FROM EUROPE.

By the Baltic, Captain Brown, arrived here yesterday in the short passage of 28 days from Liverpool, we have received London papers to the 4th Feb. and accounts from Liverpool to the 6th. After a thorough and careful perusal of the variety of matter which our regular files of papers have furnished, it may literally be said, "we have toiled all night—and caught nothing." Situated as the political affairs of Europe have been, for many months past, particularly between the two great colossal powers of France and England, some events of importance were naturally to be expected, and the disappointment at not finding them is great indeed. The articles which we have selected for our foreign head, are rather intended to afford evidence of our remark, than expected to furnish much intelligence.

The report of an engagement between admiral Saumerez, and a part of the French gun boats, received by the way of Charleston, is without any foundation whatever.

POSTSCRIPT.

☞ Wednesday evening, 11 o'clock. A boat from the Packet, captain Trott, who has arrived in the outer harbor, in the remarkable short passage of *nineteen days* from Liverpool, has just come up to town, with her letters and papers, which are to the 14th ult. From a cursory perusal of their contents, we do not find that any events of magnitude had transpired. A few articles, from the latest date, follow:

LONDON, Feb. 10—14.

The following letter has been lately received from a respectable commercial house in Copenhagen:

We are sorry to inform you, that the news mentioned in our last, of the French threatening to visit Denmark, is now greatly feared; for it is generally believed that an attempt will be made to invade this country in a short time, and in consequence our different transactions are greatly depressed.

Yesterday we received letters from Rotterdam, dated the 3d inst. which state that the French have carried away the celebrated boring machine in the cannon foundary at Hanover, the value of which is estimated at two millions of florins.

Through the same channel we learn, that Prussia has strongly interested itself in the negociation for the establishment of a commercial treaty with Russia; one of the principal conditions of which is stated to be, the shutting of the Sound against the English. Through another medium we have the pleasure to find, that the Emperor has refused his acquiescence to the measure.

LONDON, February 13.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION on the SUBJECT of INVASION.

The public may place the fullest reliance on the authenticity of the following statement, which we have just been favored with from the most unquestionable authority. Two Swiss officers, (brothers) in the French service, are just arrived from France, having made their escape from thence. They have been examined before the Privy Council, and made a declaration that the invasion of this country will be attempted in the course of the present week, wind and weather permitting.

It is reported, through letters, received in town yesterday that the house of Straple and Martini, of Bordeaux, have failed.

Extract of a letter from a commercial house at Barcelona, to a gentleman in this town, dated in Nov. last.

"Considering the political connexions of this country, combined with the present state of Europe, the continuation of its neutrality becomes very questionable, if involved in the war, as the part it must take is very obvious; its colonial trade must cease, and in this case, sugars, cocoas, and hides must come through some other channel. If therefore, the news of this kingdom's having joined France, gets to the United States, you may send those articles with confidence. East-India and Muscovado sugars will not answer, as we have no refiners here—Havanna and Vera Cruz will do well. The Vintage has been abundant, and brandies are low. They will however, rise, if Spain continues at peace with England. Exclusive of wines and brandies. we have a great diversity of silks, which come as cheap as those of Lyons. Nature seems to have formed a connecting chain between Catalonia and the middle States of America; the former requires an annual supply of 1,000,000 bushels of wheat, and 80,000 barrels of flour; and I am of opinion, that America can export and bring wheat as cheap, if not more so, than Russia, or any port of the Baltic."

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21.

The permanent residence of Congress, at this place, has received an additional confirmation from the decision of the Senate. The *reasons*, in which the proposition to remove to Baltimore originated, appear from the sketch of the debate, and the REASONS, on which that measure was rejected likewise appear. On the relative weight of both the nation will decide; and on their unprejudiced and enlightened decision the friends of Washington may safely rely. The motives of the proposers and advocates of a removal we know to be pure. Under this conviction, and a certainty that the proposed removal originated in unintentional error, it is with the less pain that we state with perfect freedom an opinion of its tendency and the arguments urged in support of it.

We place entirely out of consideration the constitutional question involved. That is so clear that nothing which we can say will illustrate it.

Considering this as irreversibly settled, the only enquiry is whether measures ought to be pursued by congress calculated to advance, or measures calculated to repress the growth and improvement of the city. If found policy dictate the former description of measures, never was there a more unfortunate expedient resorted to than the bill brought in by Mr. Wright. Had that bill been sustained for a day, either by postponement or any other mode of getting rid of it short of rejection, it would have stopped all improvement, have sunk property, and have banished the most useful class of our citizens. With a clear perception of this result, the Senate very wisely and spiritedly carried the bill to the crisis of its rejection. By this act the principle is settled; and settled we believe, for ever.

It may not, however, be improper to state some circumstances, for the accuracy of which we pledge ourselves, which will shew that many of the facts assumed in debate were incorrect, and of consequence, the inferences deduced erroneous.

The progress of the city, since it became the seat of government, was denied. The fact is that within two years past Washington has gained an accession of above one thousand citizens. Her present population is about 4,500.

An extensive street of above three miles in length, exceeded, perhaps, by none in the world, has been laid out and improved, which unites the several parts of the city with each other, and the whole with George Town; and nothing is required but a bridge over the Potomac, now in contemplation, to give the city an easy access to Alexandria.

A bridge of great extent, has been thrown over the Eastern Branch.

Three markets have been established.

Various other interesting objects have been effected, by which personal accommodation has been eminently advanced; and we venture to affirm upon the whole that the general progress of the city has surpassed the expectations of its dispassionate friends, and that it only requires from the legislature good government, a moderate share of liberality in finishing the public buildings, and an unshaken indication of good will, to render it, in a short time, a commodious and agreeable residence for the government.

Yesterday the following message from the President was delivered to the two Houses of Congress by Mr. Harvie:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States,

I communicate to Congress a letter received from captain Bainbridge, commander of the Philadelphia frigate, informing us of the wreck of that vessel on the coast of Tripoli, and that himself, his officers, and men had fallen into the hands of the Tripolitans. This accident renders it expedient to increase our force, and enlarge our expences in the Mediterranean beyond what the last appropriation for the naval service contemplated. I recommend therefore to the consideration of Congress such an addition to that appropriation as they may think the exigency requires.

TH: JEFFERSON.

TRIPOLI, 1 *Nov.* 1803.

SIR,

Misfortune necessitates me to make a communication the most distressing of my life, and, it is with the deepest regret that I inform you of the loss of the United States frigate Philadelphia, under my command, by being wrecked on rocks between four and five miles to the eastward of the town of Tripoli. The circumstances relating to this unfortunate event are: at 9 A. M. being about five leagues to the eastward of Tripoli, saw a ship in shore of us standing before the wind to the westward; we immediately gave chase. She hoisted Tripolitan colours, and continued her course very near the shore; about 11 o'clock had approached the shore to seven fathoms water; commenced firing at her, which, we continued by running before the wind until half past eleven; being then in seven fathoms water, and finding our fire ineffectual to prevent her getting into Tripoli, gave up the pursuit, and was bearing off, when we ran on the rocks in 12 feet water forward, and 17 feet abaft; immediately lowered down a boat from the stern, founded and found the greatest depth of water astern, laid all sails aback, loosed top gallant sails, and set a heavy press of sail canvass on the ship, blowing fresh, to back her off, cast three anchors away from the bows, started the water in the hold, hove overboard the guns, except some abaft to defend the ship against the gun boats which were then firing on us; found all this ineffectual, then made the last resort of lightening her forward by cutting away the fore-mast, which carried the main top gallant mast with it; but labor and enterprise were in vain! for our fate was direfully fixed. I am fully sensible of the loss that has occurred to our country, and the difficulty which it may further involve her in with this Regency; and feel beyond description for the brave unfortunate officers and men under my command, who have done every thing in their power worthy of the character and stations they filled; and I trust on investigation of my own conduct that it will appear to my government and country consistent with the station in which I had the honor of being placed.

Striking on the rocks was an accident not possible for me to guard against by any intimation of charts, as no such shoals were laid down in any on board, and every careful precaution by three leads kept heaving, was made use of in approaching the shore to effect the capture of a Tripolitan cruizer; and after the ship struck the rocks, all possible measures were taken to get her off, and the firm determination made not to give her up as long as possible hope remained, although annoyed by gun-boats, which took their position in such a manner that we could not bring our guns to bear on them, not even after cutting away part of the stern to effect it.

When my officers and self had not a hope left of its being possible to get her off the rocks, and having withstood the fire of the gun-boats for four hours, and a reinforcement coming out from Tripoli without the smallest chance of injuring them in resistance, to save the lives of brave men, left no alternative, but the distressing one of hauling our colours down and submitting to the enemy whom chance had befriended.—In such a dilemma the flag of the U. States was struck. However painful it will be to our fellow citizens to hear the news, they may be assured that we feel in a national loss equally with them.—Zeal of serving our country in doing our duty has placed us in that situation which can better be conceived than described, and from which we rely on our country extricating us.

The gun-boats in attacking fired principally at our masts. Had they directed their shot at the hull, no doubt but they would have killed many.

The ship was taken possession of a little after sun-set, and in the course of the evening myself and all officers with part of the crew, were brought on shore, carried before the Bashaw who asked several questions. From his palace the officers were conducted to the house which Mr. Cathcart lived in, where we lodged last night, and this day the *Minister* has become the guarantee to the Bashaw, for us officers, and we have given him our parole of honor.

Enclosed you will receive a list of the officers and a few of the people to attend them, who are quartered in the American Consular house, and are to be provided for by such ways and means as I can best adopt, which will be on as economical a plan as possible. The remainder of the crew will be supported by the Regency.

We have all lost every thing but what was on our backs, even part of that was taken off; the loss of the officers is considerable, as they were well provided in every necessary for a long station.

M. Nisson, the Danish Consul, has been extremely attentive, and kindly offers every service of assistance.

I trust, sir, you will readily conceive the anxiety of mind I must suffer. After the perusal of the enclosed certificates from the officers on my conduct, should you be pleased to express the opinion of government, you will much oblige me.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
With the greatest respect,
your most obe't serv't
W. BAINBRIDGE.

P. S. Notwithstanding our parole we are not permitted to leave the House or go on the top of it, and they have closed our view of the sea.

The above letter was accompanied by a certificate of the officers of the Philadelphia, bearing testimony to the good conduct of Capt. Bainbridge; and a list of 43 officers and 264 men in captivity.

On Motion of Mr. Nicholson the Message was immediately referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

IN SENATE.

Proposition to remove the Seat of Government.

On Monday, the following bill, presented by Mr. Wright, was read the second time;

A BILL

Entituled an act for the temporary removal of the seat of government of the United States, to the city of Baltimore.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That prior to the first Monday of November next, all offices attached to the seat of government of the United States shall be removed to, and until the first Monday in November, in the year eighteen hundred and   shall remain in the city of Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, at which place the session of Congress next ensuing shall be held.

Sec. 2. *And be it enacted*, That the President appoint three commissioners who, or any two of whom shall, under the direction of the President, be authorised to provide suitable buildings in the city of Baltimore, for the accommodation of Congress, and of the President, and for the public offices of the government of the United States.

Sec. 3. *And be it enacted*, That all offices attached to the said seat of government shall be removed thereto, by their respective holders, and shall, after the first Monday of November next, cease to be exercised elsewhere; and that to defray the necessary expence of such removal, and temporary residence, the President of the United States be authorised to accept such grants of money, lots, or buildings, as may be offered by the citizens of the United States for the same.

The debate, which took place on this occasion, had progressed to some length, before we entered the Senate chamber. Mr. *Wright* was then on the floor.—We collected, from what he said, that he had made a motion to postpone the further consideration of the bill until the 1st Monday in May.

He assigned as reasons for this motion that it was not his intention, in presenting it, that it should be passed; but that it had been offered with the view of acting as spur to the inhabitants of Washington to effect a more complete accommodation of Congress: He trusted and believed it would have that effect; and the operation of the postponement would, by hanging the bill over their heads, most powerfully tend to produce the desirable result of a concentration of the city and an augmentation of accommodation.

Mr. Wright was followed by *General Jackson*, who, in terms of appropriate energy, condemned the proposition of removal. He said he should not have believed, but for the express declaration of the honorable gentleman from Maryland, that he would have brought forward a bill the sole object of which was to frighten the women and children of Washington. So far from the measure having the effect avowed by the gentleman, if it had any effect whatever, it would be to shake all confidence in the government, and to repress the very accommodation desired.

General Jackson denied the moral right of Congress to remove the seat of government; it had been fixed under the constitution, and without its violation could not be changed.

Such a measure would indicate a prostration of plighted faith; would destroy all confidence in the government from one end of the continent to the other.

Gentlemen, in favour of this measure, should know its cost. Already had the present seat of government, in its origination and consequences, cost the nation the assumption of the state debts to the amount of twenty-one millions, and between one and two millions for the public accommodation. Would gentlemen be willing, not only to lose all that had been expended, but likewise to indemnify the proprietors in the city, whose assessed property amounted to two and a half millions of dollars, and the proprietors of property in the whole district, the amount of which he was unable to state.

General Jackson concluded by saying he should vote against the postponement, under the expectation that the Senate would take up the bill & reject it by a majority so great, that no similar proposition should ever again be brought before them.

Mr. Anderson declared himself hostile to the postponement; as he was in favor of the passage of the bill under certain modifications. He considered Congress possessed of the constitutional power of altering the seat of the government; and believed from an experience of the inconveniencies attending the existing seat, it was their duty to change it.—He allowed that, in such an event, an obligation would arise to indemnify the proprietors for the losses they would thereby sustain. This, however, he considered the lesser evil; as the sum required to make an indemnity would be less than that required for the improvements contemplated, and which were necessary to accommodate the government.

Mr. Cocke declared himself decidedly inimical to the bill. The *permanent* seat of government was fixed under the constitution, and the power did not belong to Congress to alter it.

Mr. Adams strenuously contended against the right of Congress to remove the seat of government. To do so, would be to prostrate the national faith and to shake the confidence of the nation in the government. He considered the proposed measure as inexpedient as it was unconstitutional; as it directly tended to defeat the object avowed by the mover.

Mr. S. Smith said he should vote in favour of the postponement; because he believed if the bill were not postponed, it would consume more time than could at this late period of the session be spared, without a serious neglect of important business before Congress. He expressed his regret at its introduction.

The question was then taken on the motion of postponement, by YEAS and NAYS, as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. I. Smith, S. Smith, Wright 3.

NAYS—Messrs. Adams, Anderson Armstrong, Baldwin, Bradley, Breckinridge, Cocke, Dayton, Franklin Jackson, Logan, Maclay, Nicholas Olcott, Pickering, Plumer, J. Smith, (Ohio.) J. Smith, (N. Y.) Stone, Sumter, Tracy, Venable, White, Worthington, 24.

The bill was read a second time.

Mr. Dayton said he had been instructed by the legislature of New-Jersey, in case any prospect presented itself of a removal of the seat of government, to offer, in their name, the public buildings in Trenton for their accommodation. He, therefore, gave notice, that in case the bill went to a third reading, he should produce his instructions and move the substitution of Trenton in the room of Baltimore. At the same time he was free to declare his opinion of the impolicy of the proposed measure. The provision in the constitution had arisen from an experience of the necessity of establishing a permanent seat for the government. To avert the evils arising from a perpetual state of mutation & from the agitation of the public mind whenever the question was discussed, the constitution had wisely provided for the establishment of a permanet seat, vesting in congress exclusive legislation over it. While he declared this as his creed, he begged it to be understood that their were, in his opinion, some rightful grounds of removal. There were four such. Two of these were the following, if the place should be found a grave yard for those who resided in it, or if the inconveniences of conducting the machine of government should be so great as to prevent the due transaction of the public business. For the existence of these no fault could be attached to the district. If, therefore, a removal took place on their account, congress were bound to indemnify the proprietors. There were two other grounds of removal, which would justify a removal without indemnity, as they would be the effect of the misconduct of the inhabitants of the district. These were the evidence of a turbulent spirit, of endangering the safety of congress, and of a determined resolution, arising from a dissatisfaction which the government of congress, expressed in favor of a recession.

When he stated these grounds for removal, Mr. Dayton said it was not from any apprehension of their occurrence. On the contrary, he believed the government in perfect safety, and he was convinced, if any hostile arm should be raised against it, the inhabitants of Columbia would be ready to shed their blood in its defence.

Nothing could exceed his surprise at the motives expressed by the gentleman from Maryland for bringing forward this measure. He should have expected, if the gentleman wished to promote the interests of the city, he would have imitated the example of the Athenians, who, in order to make a particular fund devoted to theatrical exhibitions sacred, had passed a law punishing with death any man who should move to divert it from its allotted purpose; and that the honorable gentleman, instead of bringing forward this bill, would have introduced one punishing with death the man who should move a change of the seat of government; so that he who made the attempt, might know that he did it with a halter around his neck.