legislation. In a statute of that year it is expressly declared, "no person shall be liable to serve but such as are bound by their tenures" If, indeed, there were such a prerogative it would be impracticable. The constitution has wisely planted an inseparable check over the abuse, and, thank God, not one of the ancient undefined prerogatives can be exercised against the liberties of the people. To what an extent, and to what a complete overthrow of every thing for which our ancestors have successfully contended would this right go? Money has been, perhaps by a strained metaphor, called the sinews of war. If his majesty had the right of commanding the military service of his subjects, he must also be supposed to have the right of maintaining them; and so the power of the purse would be taken out of the hands of the Representatives of the people. I state this only to shew how improper and unjustifiable it is to introduce such an expression into a bill, and how negligent it is to let it pass. And it is not in the preamble of this act only that we see a dangerous door opened to abuse. Let us look, then, at the enactments of the General Defence act, respecting this prerogative which is asserted to be inherent in his majesty. It states that, in the event of invasion, or the appearance of the enemy in force on the coast, it shall be lawful for his majesty to call out the persons who are enrolled under this act in the different counties; that it shall be lawful to call them out in such proportion as shall seem meet—to place them in any regiment of regulars, militia, or fencibles—to put them under martial law, and march them to any part of the coast, &c. This act, therefore, without any limit or qualification of rank, age or station, empowers the King to compel any individual, however unfit for military service, to serve in the ranks exactly on the footing of enlisted soldiers, to be subject to all the severities of military duty and of martial law. If this really be the prerogative of his majesty it is one which cannot be contemplated without anxiety. Not to suppose the existence of great and violent abuse, it is sufficient to know that such power is liable to abuse; and no man with the sentiments of freedom, and the confidence of independence can feel perfectly easy to think, that to a law, so unmitigated and so unqualified, he may be subject. Is it possible to reflect on such a power without seeing how it may be abused and perverted? It may be an extreme case, indeed, to state that its sweeping provisions give authority to the King to take the Prince of Wales, place him under the command of his footman, and march him in that inferior capacity against the enemy. I know that such a case is impossible, but it illustrates the boundless authority, which the act confers, and which in many instances, it is quite easy to conceive might be exercised.

Might not a tradesman or a farmer be hurried away from his family and occupations, and be placed under the command of a corporal or a serjeant their own servants? Persons of every situation may be pitched upon by malice or by revenge, and sent to perform military service for which they are unfit. I see that such a scheme of things does lie open to abuse, and the monstrous abuse and injustice with which the execution of it would be attended, must have prevented the attempt to carry it into effect at all. I do not understand exactly the mode in which these provisions are to be reduced to practice. If the quota of men are to be furnished by a parish, was to be fixed by ballot, the inconvenience might frequently be very great, even where a sense of abuse did not aggravate the case. The ballot might, without any distinction of rank, age or circumstances compel any man to serve in person. In truth a principle more inconsistent with that sound and rational equality, which all laws and all human institutions ought to aim at in the imposition of burdens, never was devised. In practice it must be productive of extreme inequality, hardship, and grievance. From a true equality the principles of subordination flow, but in the operation of such measures as this, all distinctions are annihilated, and every thing is levelled under the discretion of the crown. Indeed ministers themselves on some occasions have acknowledged enough to shew that they were themselves convinced that the general defence act could not be carried into practice. It was said by one of them, that the defence act would "have given way;" and so it must, for such extravagant powers could not have been exercised without an abuse that would have proved fatal to the measure. But still ministers contended it had been of use, as it backed the volunteer system. What! was it then thought necessary to goad the people of this country forward in the defence of their houses, their property, and their liberties, by the terror of these severe provisions? I am certain that the spirit of the nation required no such spur. Why such bugbears then? Why thus compel the volunteers on, like a front rank by the bayonet of that behind it? But in truth, what was this bugbear—Ministers admit that this act might have given way? What was the value of this threat, this stimulus of the General Defence Act which had its use? At any rate, if the people wanted spur, as they do not, would you employ a menace, which in fact, had in it nothing that could really alarm. At least you ought not to threaten what you cannot enforce. I remember an anecdote of one of your predecessors, sir, who is allowed to have maintained the dignity and authority of the Chair, in a manner superior to all those who went before him, however he may have yielded to those who have come after him. It was a custom with that person (Mr. Speaker Onslow,) when any member was guilty of any irregularity, to cry "take care, sir, or I will name you." And on one occasion, a member ventured to whisper the Speaker, "And what would be the consequence if you did name me?" The Speaker replied "God only only knows." Now in the same manner ministers have though it convenient to keep up the terror of the General Defence Act, in order to stimulate the volunteers; yet they are sensible that the menace would fail them, and if they were to be asked, what would be the consequence of their threat? their answer would be, "God only knows," for no man could think of putting in practice a measure so pregnant with oppression and injustice. In the volunteer bill, which was lately so much the subject of discussion in the House, it was argued to be unjust that a farmer should, against his will, be deprived of the labor of his servant: and this provision, I understand, has been altered in the other House. But indeed it was of little consequence to talk of the hardships of the farmer being deprived of his servant, if he himself was liable to be taken and sent to serve in the army or militia, in Cornwall or Northumberland, or any other place the most remote from his abode. But, in truth, the very atrocity of this fact made it impossible to put it in execution; so that, in reality, it was as little calculated to be useful, as it was altogether unnecessary as a stimulus to the zeal and to the patriotism of the country. Having seen, therefore, that the general defence act was neither unnecessary in terrorem, and could be of no avail as a bugbear, what practical good was it calculated to afford in strengthening our means of repelling invasion? I have repeatedly stated in this House, that I conceived it desirable that, in addition to our other means of defence, we should have an armed peasantry. Ministers themselves go so far as to say that an armed peasantry may be of use, to back the volunteers, as the latter will be of service to back the regular army. They have never, however, proposed any rational practical means by which this advantage can be obtained. Let us, therefore, go into the committee, and discuss the subject. Let us there try if we cannot devise some mode of strengthening and confirming whatever is well conceived in the present system of defence, by that which all consider useful and important, though in different degrees. Let us there discuss how the peasantry are to be called out, armed, and arrayed. Let us discuss how, in case of emergency, they are to be employed; how far, if fire arms cannot be found, pikes may not with advantage perhaps be put into their hands; and whether it may be necessary to place them under martial law, or by what other code they may be rendered subject to discipline? These are fit objects for discussion in the committe, and there alone, indeed, can they be discussed with advantage. There too we may revise, amend, and improve the different measures that have already been passed for the public defence—there we may correct their errors, remove their contradictions, and increase their effect. I have already hinted the general importance of calling forth the exertions of an armed peasantry, and in this, even they who think more highly of the volunteers will pefectly concur, because the armed peasantry is not intended to supercede the volunteers. As to a detailed plan on this head, I do not propose to trouble the house with any at present. Neither am I prepared to say how far this service should be voluntary or compulsory. That the voluntary zeal of the country would supply every thing that could be desired, *I* am perfectly convinced. At the same time if it should be thought necessary to make the service in some degree compulsory, I will not say that it might not be proper to make some provision for it. Nevertheless, the means of calling forth that aid must be freed from that injustice and inequality to which the general defence act, would now be liable. How likewise is this force to be armed; And if muskets cannot be furnished to all, surely those who are most inclined to despise the pike, must admit that the pike is a much better weapon than spades or pitch-forks, with which alone the peasantry are now armed, even were they so arrayed and organised as to be capable of being employed with effect. These, however, and many other questions which are naturally connected with the subject and which will no doubt be more particularly insisted upon this evening, will be proper for the consideration of the committee, which it is the purpose of my motion to institute. I shall, therefore, conclude with moving, that a committee be appointed to take into consideration the state of the public defence."

(To be continued.)

From the Morning Chronicle.

THE CONSPIRACY.
No. I.

REPORT of the GRAND JUDGE,
Continued.

"On the 4th Germinal I arrived at Munich at six o'clock in the evening, and alighted at Mr. Drake's, minister of England; he lodged me at his house, in a chamber on the same floor with his own apartment, as had been agreed upon at our former interview. Enraged jacobin as I was supposed to be, he received me with the most affectionate regard, and I presented him with the letter of my pretended general with a request to answer it immediately, which he did the next day. As this answer contained the principal details of our conversation, I shall content myself with giving a succinct result of it. On Mr. Drake's asking me what news there was in France, I answered, that events had never yet been so favorable for us; that the arrest of several royalists had cast an impenetrable veil over our secret projects, and we were rejoiced to find that not a single jacobin had been apprehended, &c. "I believe with you," replied Mr. Drake, "that you are secure from being suspected, and I have no doubt that every stroke which you make is directed with a certainty of success; but remember to recommend it to your general, that it is essential to unite all parties in the first operations that he shall undertake, and that he must present an imposing task to the First Consul; on this occasion he will be able to employ the royalist party with the greatest advantage." I observed to Mr. Drake, that my general was entirely of his opinion, but that the committee could not bring itself to unite to such an excellent cause a party so contrary to its principles, &c. "Make your use of it, at all events (said he to me, as he walked in his garden) and when you have overthrown B———, it will be very easy to purge yourself of all that are not of your party, as you have frequently done in the course of the revolution."

"It was necessary for me to consider the task in which I had engaged, and the utility of my mission to my country, to enable me to restrain the indignation that I felt myself on the occasion. I felt myself powerfully urged to divulge my real name to the wretch, and to demand satisfaction with my sword in my hand, for all the calumny that he dared to express and think. However, I governed my resentment; the conversation then languished for a time, but Drake soon renewed it—"Remember (said he) support the idea that I threw out to your general; an augmentation of pay must be promised to the regiments on which you can rely. I will furnish for some months, all this expence, and you may hereafter supply them from the confiscations of your party. I should have wished that your general would have waited a little before he began his first operations; but, since he thinks the present moment favorable, he is anxious to get possession of Huninguen, which is not remote from the centre of your operations. I intend to fix myself at Fribourg, to be able to give you prompt and certain assistance.—As to the citadel of Strasburg, we must think no more of it; it is too distant. I believe that your general will not have failed to make a powerful party in the army to produce a diversion, for without that B——— would be able to fight you with advantage; all the means which he possesses to oppose you must be previously calculated, in order to render his efforts abortive; but profit, when the occasion shall offer of the trouble in which the rest of the partisans shall be plunged. Destroy them without pity, pity is not the virtue of a politician."

"Mr. Drake insisted very much that my general should send Mr. Muller to him. 'He is indispensably necessary to me; I want him very much to put me in possession of the present course of affairs, and to inform me who are of your party, for without that I shall not be able to justify myself to my own government, which will be desirous of knowing the names of the principal persons when it is to furnish you with such considerable sums of money." Mr. Drake gave me a sum amounting to 74,976 livres in gold—"It is all that I can do for you at present (he said,) but I shall soon send to Mr. Spencer Smith at Stutgard, who will furnish you with a much larger sum; I give you a letter for him, and a passport as an English courier, charged with dispatches for Cassel, as in that character, it will not be necessary for you to present yourself to the French envoy, who watches our most minute actions. You will say nothing to Mr. Smith as to what has passed between us; you may however, satisfy his curiosity respecting the news in France." I then took leave of Mr. Drake (Monday the 5th inst.) and entered my post chaise, which was brought to the gate of his hotel, at half past ten at night, and took the road for Stutgard; in that city I arrived on the 7th, at half past one in the afternoon, as an English courier. I stopped at the Golden French Horn inn, and was conducted to the house of Mr. Spencer Smith, where I was announced under the name of Lefebvre. His first reception of me was cold, and accompanied with an air of suspicion. I then gave him the letter from Mr. Drake, and no sooner was he informed who I was, than he overwhelmed me with civilities. He begged me to excuse the ungracious manner in which I was received, "for [said he,] I do not consider myself here as in a state of security. I assure you, that for some days past, I have received no one, but with a pistol in my hand; I am not upon a bed of roses, I regard myself as an outpost, and *I* declare to you that if B—required that *I* should be arrested, the elector of Wirtemburgh, though his wife is a princess of England, would instantly deliver me up, without giving me the least previous notice; for he already entertains some doubts as to the nature of my occupation here; and he actually is afraid that it may compromit him with the consul." He informed himself with much apparent interest of the affairs of France, and told me that the arrest of the duc d'Enghein had greatly disconcerted him; that he was very much affected by the misfortunes of Pichegru; and that England had with reason formed sanguine expectations from the mission of a man at once so popular and so full of talent. "*I* knew him very well," he repeated with great emotion, 'because he was the lieutenant of my brother who disembarked him on the coast of France. *I* flattered myself then he would have been able to escape, but we must reckon no more upon that, since it appears to be certain that he has been apprehended.

"He earnestly requested me to write a letter to Strasburgh, to Madame Franck, the banker, to desire her to forward hereafter all letters which she should receive addressed to Baron de Herbert, a German officer. 'She may forward them to me under the false cover of the son of George Henry Keller, banker, at Stutgard: I am the more anxious to receive them, because some among them may be from Pichegru.' He desired me also to inform myself of Madame Henrietta de Tromelin, whose husband he had known at Constantinople, he had the very great kindness to inform me that his assumed name was de Brond, and he appeared to derive no considerable consequence, in his own opinion, from the intrigues he had carried on under that denomination. The secretary of this Mr. Smith, is a Pericaud, formerly in the service of the bishop of Seez; this emigrant entertained me for a long time with his lamentations, and quite overcame me with the horrible actions he recounted of the chief of the French nation. Mr. Drake, Mr. Spencer Smith, and M. Pericaud, let me know that they should have been most completely tired with the dullness of Munich and Stutgard, if it had not been for the occupation afforded them by the affairs of France: they boasted, however, that they could draw very considerable sums from the English government.

"Trust in your friends" said Mr. S. Smith to me, "there are bills of exchange for 113,150 livres, and I will send whatever they may want, but, *par Dieu*, they must strike home for it." At this moment he presented me with a pair of pistols of the manufacture of Versailles: "You may," said he, "make an advantageous use of these little friendly twins, for they never miss."—I at first hesitated to take them, but I considered myself as an officer of artillery, who assumes a disguise to acquire the knowledge of an enemy's town; every kind of mask becomes him, he stifles his sensibility, and sees nothing but the order of his general, and the object of his mission. I took leave of Mr. Spencer Smith the 9th inst. One of his domestics brought me the post-horses, and harrassed them to my chaise at four o'clock in the afternoon. I proceeded to Strasburgh the following day, and continued my route for Paris, where I arrived on the 14th inst. It is vain for me to attempt a description of the sentiments of hatred and rage with which these monsters are animated against our country. The only hope that sustains them, is to see us armed one against the other. There is no occupation so vile or atrocious, for which they are not fitted; at the same time their cowardice is extreme; the shadow of a brave man is alone sufficient to sink them into the earth; they pass their life in forming plots, and which is the natural effect of criminal habits, they continually* imagine themselves surrounded with dangers. Whether it is that in the courts friendly to France, and that are under essential obligations to the First Consul, they are not regarded with a favorable eye; whether it is that their real characters have been discovered by the inhabitants of the cities where they reside, and that they perceive that all public opinion is against them; whether it is that their own minds every moment inform them, that the man who respects nothing has no claim to respect; they seem bent down by the weight of public contempt, and are marked with the ineffable opprobrium which is attached to their names.

Signed "ROSEY."

A LIST of LETTERS remaining in the POST OFFICE WASHINGTON CITY, on the 1st day of July, 1804.

A.

Philip Allen, D. D. Addison esq. J. B. Anderson.

B.

Andrew Bartle, Jona. Brutt, Moses Bullen, Lieut. William L. Brent, John Lewis Brooke, Samuel Bodget, esq. Miss Nancy H. Baker, Egleton M. Boyle, Wm Buris.

C.

Overton Carr, jun. Josiah Curtis, Capt. Silas Caulkins, James Crook, Capt. Wm. Crosby, George Calder, Ann Crone, Mrs. Ann Carr, Harish Carter, John Cross, George Crowninshield, esq.

D.

Patrick Deery, Andrew Dodge, Peggy Dorsey, William Durity, William Dupoy, James R. Dermot, William Dyer, Mrs. Eliza Davies.

E.

Rufus Easton, esq. Joseph Eaton.

F.

William Fairburn 2, Mrs. Susannah B. Finch, Jacob Forman, Joseph Foster.

G.

Christian Gouldin, John Green, Margaret Gibbs, Thomas Gantt, jun. Mr. Green, Martha Gordon, Robert Gilmer John Grogan.

H.

Doctor Grafton Hanson, 2, Thomas Hanson, esq. 2, Spencer Hickman, Dolla Hardterton, Benjamin Hutton, jun. Miss Hanson, John Hurrey, J. Hardy, Isaac Henry, care of Isaac Polock.

I.

James Jackson, Israel Jones, Ariel Jeans, General Andrew Jackson, John Jennings.

K.

John Keall, James Kennedy, Capt. James Kinner, Thomas Karns.

L.

John U. Loulin, 2, George Lewis, Anthony Lithernefs, King Luton, Geo. Lane, John Lloyd, Hiliary Lanham, Christopher Lowndes, Lieut. Charles Lodlow, Mrs. Lewis, Louis Anbain Citoyen Louis Legas.

M.

Absalom Mayers, William Macgill, Peter Moor, Notley Maddox, esq. 2, Joseph M'Nele, John Mayne, Captain Ignatius Manning, James Miles, Thos. M'Minn.

P.

Archibald Penton, John Pierson, Thomas Pearce, Lawson Pearson, Wesley Pigman, Thomas Purcell, Peter B. Portes, Esq. Charles Ponge, Wm. Priestman, Oliver Pollock, Esq.

R.

M. Razilly, Miss Nancy Ruslan, George H. Rogers, David K. Richardson, 2. Major Rivardi, Major Rogers, 3. Tench Ringgold, Mrs. Maria Ronels, care of Mr. Stelle.

S.

Capt. Thomas Swaine, 2. John Swank, Joseph Scholfield, Goufrey Smith, Isaac Smith, Mrs. Jane Savery, Andrew Smith, Esq. George Sands, Esq.

T.

William Terry, Maria Thomson, Eliza Thompson, Benjamin Talman, 2. John Taylor, Samuel C. Thompson, Lewis Talburt.

W.

Catherine Wilson, Thomas Wilson, Joseph Wilson, Mrs. Ann H. Winthrop, 2. Thomas Webb, Col. W. A. Washington, Joshua Ward, John A. Wilson, Robert R. Williams, William Wood, Lieut. Melancthon, T. Woolsey, Joseph Williams, Charles White, Jacob Worthy, George Wilson, Esq. James Wilson.

Y.

Charles Young, William Young.

July 4.

NOTICE.

THERE was committed as a runaway to the jail of Frederick county, a negro man who calls himself CEASA LANGSTON, and says he belongs to Mr. Isaac Langston of Herford county North Carolina; he is about 37 years of age, five feet seven inches high, a stout well made fellow—his clothing are a grey woollen coat with a blue cape, cotton striped waistcoat and trowsers and a tow linen shirt, he also has four scars on the back of his neck. If his master does not release him he will be sold for the jail fees agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, Sheriff, of Frederick county.

June 25—