speak, but no one opens his lips; and silence in future would be a dereliction of what I deem one of the first and dearest interests of my country. Perhaps in my manner of announcing my intentions and objects, although it has been conformable to every day's practise in the British Parliament, I may not have been considered as conforming perfectly to the rules of order here; but if order has been violated, the transgression shall not be repeated. I have risen at this time merely to call the attention of the House to the subject, and to give notice that I shall, on Tuesday of next week (as it is proper to lead the public mind gradually to the contemplation of concerns of such importance) offer to the consideration of the House, a series of resolutions, the objects of which will be, To produce a discussion and decision upon the two great questions which I have mentioned, relative to the naval establishment: To introduce, at all events, into the organization and management of that establishment, a new and more efficient system: And to prepare and organize other measures, calculated for the farther and more effectual protection of the commerce, the seamen, the harbors, the coasts, and the frontiers of the United States.

WASHINGTON CITY.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19.

Extract of a letter from John Gavino, Esq. Consul of the United States at Gibraltar, to the Secretary of State, dated 4th Oct. 1806.

"The restraint on Tobacco from the United states continues at this port and has everset several voyages, by which our merchants in America will be considerable sufferers."

DIED at Bath, in Genesee state of New York, on the 17th of November L. D. PRESLY THORNTON, esq. late of Virginia. He lived respected and died beloved by all who knew him.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15.

Mr. Lewis called for the order of the day on the bill authorising the erection of a bridge across the river Potomac.

Mr. Dawson urged the propriety of deferring the consideration of the bill to a future day, particularly as several of the members most interested in it were absent.

Mr. Lewis replied. He said he should be extremely averse to taking up intentionally any subject in the absence of particular gentlemen. But the House would do him the justice to recollect that he had called it up on Friday, when the gentlemen referred to were present. It would be altogether impossible to get through the public business if the absence of two or three gentlemen should prevent its being taken up. In the present instance he believed there were as many gentlemen who were friendly to the bill absent, as there were of those inimical to it.

The House divided on going into committee—Ayes 44—Noes 33.

The House then resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. VARNUM in the chair.

The several blanks were filled up in such a manner as to make the bill conformable to that which passed the House at the last session.

On filling the blank in the 12th section, which fixes the maximum of the clear average proceeds of tolls, after exceeding which Congress reserve the right of reducing them, the House divided on allowing "twenty per centum." Ayes 38—Noes 36.

When the committee rose and reported the bill.

Mr. J. Randolph offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the President of the U. S. be, and he hereby is requested to cause to be laid before this House an account, stating the several sums which have been expended on the capitol, the President's house, the public offices, the navy yard, and the marine barracks, respectively, and the amount expended on other objects of public expence within the city of Washington.

Messrs. *Alston* and *Olin*, suggested that it might be embarrassing to the public officers to give such a detailed and retrospective statement.

Mr. J. Randolph replied that his object was to get information, for which purpose he wished to have a condensed view of the whole expenditures within the city of Washington. At present when an appropriation for a particular object was called for, he possessed no standard of comparison whereby to determine its propriety. He wished to know the aggregate amount which this sink of expense, of encreasing expense, had cost the nation, together with the several items of expenditure. He desired this information to guide him in judging of the future appropriations that might be asked. Suppose the House should undertake to build an university—he understood there was such a project—and they should have an estimate for it—by knowing what these buildings had cost, the frequent appropriations called for, and recollecting that every appropriation was the last, they would know how to act, and whether they were about to be involved in a sea of expence, the confines of which they could never learn. He believed this had been the case in the building in which they sat, the conduct of the persons employed on it having always fallen short of the promise made.

The resolution was then agreed to without a division; and on the next day Messrs. J. Randolph and D. R. Williams appointed a committee to present it to the President.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16.

Mr. P. R. Thomson presented the petition of Robert Alexander, which was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. Holmes, from the committee of Claims, made a report adverse to the petition of William Mudnay,—whereupon, resolved that the petitioner have leave to withdraw his petition.

Mr. Thomas moved that the petition of John Leveret, heretofore presented, should be referred to the Secretary of War, to which motion the House disagreed—Ayes 15.

Mr. Crowninshield, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures having obtained leave, reported a bill to change the name of the district of Nanjemoy to that of St. Mary's, which was made the order for Friday next.

Mr. Dana called up his resolution relative to a survey of the coasts of the U. S. which was agreed to with an addition, proposed by Mr. Crowninshield, instructing the committee of Commerce and Manufactures to enquire into the expediency of surveying St. George's Bank or any other shoals and banks that may be dangerous to vessels approaching the coasts of the U. S.

Mr. *J. Clay* presented the petition of Electius Spalding, which was referred to a committee consisting of Messrs. J. Clay, Dickson and Garnett.

On motion of *Mr. J. Clay* the petition of sundry officers of the Pennsylvania line, who served in the war of 1755, was referred to the committee on the public lands.

On motion of *Mr. J. Clay* the petition of Jared Shaddock by E. and J. Perol his attornies, together with the report of the secretary of State thereon, were referred to the committee of Claims.

On motion of Mr. *J. Clay*, the petition of Anthony Bennezet, presented at the last session, was referred to the committee of Ways and Means.

On motion of *Mr. Stanton*, the petition of William Barton, presented last session, was referred to the committee of claims.

On motion of Mr. Stanton, the petition of George Cornell, likewise presented last session, was referred to the committee on public lands.

On motion of Mr. *Meriwether*, the petition of John F. Randolph and Randolph M'Gillis, with the report thereon, was referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. *Dawson* moved to postpone the further consideration of the report of the committee of the whole, on the bill, authorising the erection of a bridge across the Potomac, to the first Monday in January; this motion was opposed by Messrs. Lewis and Cook, and disagreed to—Ayes 36—Noes 55—when on motion of Mr. *Lewis*, the House took the report into consideration—Ayes 53.

After the adoption of several amendments, the bill was ordered to a third reading to morrow—*Ayes 55.*

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee appointed yesterday to present a resolution to the President of the U. S. requesting information relative to the sums expended within the City of Washington, reported that the committee had performed that service, and had received for answer that the information should be laid before the House as soon as practicable.

Mr. *Varnum* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Tennessee, praying for a new post road, which was referred to the Post office committee.

Mr. *T. W. Thompson* presented a petition from sundry citizens of New Hampshire, praying for a new post road, which was referred to the same committee.

Mr. *Magruder*, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of William Hearn, made a report, that the prayer of the petitioner is reasonable and ought to be granted; in which report the House concurred—Ayes 44—Noes 35—and appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

The engrossed bill, authorizing the erection of a bridge across the Potomac was read the third time and passed without debate—Yeas 60—Nays 39.

The Speaker informed the House that he had received an anonymous communication, addressed to Congress, from a writer who professed himself to be a foreigner, and desired his communication might be read with closed doors.

A short conversation ensued on the proper way of treating the communication; when it was agreed that it was best to take no order whatever upon it.

Mr. *Thomas*, from the committee appointed for that purpose, presented a bill supplementary to the act entitled an act regulating the grants of land appropriated for the refugees from the British provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia, which was made the order of the day for Friday next.

On motion of Mr. *Early*,

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. VARNUM in the chair—on the bill to prohibit the importation or bringing of slaves into the U. S. or the territories thereof after the 31st of December, 1807.

The bill was read as follows:

A BILL,

To prohibit the importation or bringing of slaves into the United States, or the territories thereof, after the thirty first day of December, 1807.

SEC. 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled*, That from and after the thirty-first day of December one thousand eight hundred and seven, it shall not be lawful to import or bring into the United States or the territories thereof, any negro mulatto or other person of color, with intent to keep, sell, or dispose of such negro, mulatto or person of color, as a slave.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That if any person or persons shall, after the thirty-first day of December aforesaid, build, equip, fit, load, or in any wise prepare, or shall engage or be concerned in preparing, loading, fitting, equipping or building any ship or vessel, in any port or place within the jurisdictional limits of the government of the United States, for the purpose of employing such ship or vessel in importing or bringing into the United States, or the territories thereof, any negro, mulatto, or person of color, the importation or bringing of whom is by this act prohibited, every such person shall forfeit and pay   dollars; and such ship or vessel shall, together with her cargo, tackle, apparel and furniture, be forfeited.

SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted*, That if any ship or vessel laden in whole or in part with persons, the importation or bringing of whom is by this act prohibited, shall, after the thirty-first day of December aforesaid, be found in any river, port, bay, or harbor, within the United States, or the territories thereof, or any where on the high seas within the jurisdictional limits of the government of the United States, such ship or vessel, together with her cargo, tackle, apparel and furniture, shall be forfeited, and the owner and master thereof shall moreover each forfeit and pay   dollars. And the President of the United States is hereby authorised to employ such of the armed vessels as he may judge proper, in giving to this act full and complete effect.

SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted*, That if any negro, mulatto, or person of color, the importation or bringing of whom is by this act prohibited, shall, after the thirty-first day of December aforesaid, be found within the United States or the territories thereof, every such negro, mulatto, or person of color shall be forfeited. And if any person or persons shall be concerned in buying or selling such negro, mulatto, or person of color, every person so concerned shall forfeit and pay   dollars for each negro, mulatto, or person of color so bought or sold.

SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted*, That whenever it shall appear to the court before which any suit or prosecution shall be brought, or any claim shall be tried, under the provisions of this act, that there is reasonable ground for presumption against the party sued or prosecuted or making the claim, it shall be the duty of the said court to throw the burthen of proof upon such party. And that when any seizure shall be made, or suit or prosecution commenced as aforesaid, and judgment shall be given in favor of the claimant, or party sued or prosecuted, if it shall appear to the court that there was reasonable cause for such seizure or such suit or prosecution, the said court shall cause a proper certificate or entry to be made thereof, and in such case the party claiming, sued or prosecuted, shall not be entitled to costs, nor shall the person making the seizure, or instituting the suit or prosecution, be liable to any action or judgment on account thereof.

SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted*, That all penalties and forfeitures arising under this act, may be sued for and recovered, and shall be distributed and accounted for in the manner prescribed by the act, entitled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage:" And such penalties and forfeitures may be examined, mitigated, or remitted in like manner and under the like conditions, regulations and restrictions as are prescribed, authorized and directed by the act, entitled "An act to provide for mitigating or remitting the forfeitures, penalties and disabilities accruing in certain cases therein mentioned."

The first blank was filled with 5000—the second with 10,000—and the third with 500.

Mr. *Sloan* moved to amend the 4th section, by inserting after the word "forfeited," the following words——"and such person or slave shall be entitled to his freedom."

This amendment was supported by Messrs. Sloan, Barker, Bidwell and Smilie; and opposed by Messrs. Alston, Elmer, Early, Macon, J. Clay, Quincy and Cook, and disagreed to—Ayes 19.

The debate, which was highly interesting, shall be given in our next; together with a statement of the other amendments offered.

It was agreed that the bill required considerable amendment, for which purpose the committee rose, and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the Senate, stating that they had appointed on their part a committee, in pursuance of the act making a further appropriation for the support of the library.

Mr. *Dawson* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of the counties of Washington and Alexandria, in the district of Columbia, praying for the incorporation of a company for making a turnpike road between the causeway to Mason's island and Alexandria, which was referred to Messrs Dawson, Magruder, Anderson, Verplanck and Cutts.

Mr. *T. M. Randolph* presented a memorial from the Trustees appointed to superintend the Education of Youth in the City of Washington, which was referred to Messrs. T. M. Randolph, Clinton and M. Williams.

Mr. *J. Clay* presented a petition from the sugar refiners of Philadelphia, which was referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. *Fisk* presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of Vermont, praying for the establishment of a new post road, which was referred to the Post office committee.

THURSDAY, DEC. 18.

Mr. *Clinton* presented a memorial from sundry inhabitants of N. York, praying that measures may be taken more effectually to fortify that port, which was referred to the committee appointed on that part of the message of the President that relates to the repairs of fortifications, &c.

The House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole, on the bill prohibiting the importation of slaves.

A long debate ensued on various amendments offered, which shall be given hereafter. Without making a decision on any question of interest the committee rose, and asked leave to sit again; which was refused, and the bill recommitted to a select committee.

Mr. Dawson, from the committee appointed on that part of the message of the President, that relates to making provision for offences committed against the U. S. presented a bill providing for the punishment of certain crimes against the U. S. which was referred to a committee of the whole House.

Mr. J. Randolph from the committee to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the U. S. as relates to the invasion of our territory by the troops of Spain and to the adoption of measures for the protection thereof, respectfully recommended the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That provision ought to be made by law to fortify and defend such position on the Mississippi, below the city of New-Orleans, as the President of the U. S. shall designate for the protection of that city; and that further provision ought to be made by law for guarding the approaches to the same from the east.

2. *Resolved*, That the President of the U. S. be authorised to accept of any company or companies, of volunteers, either of artillery, cavalry, or infantry, who may associate and offer themselves for the service, (not exceeding   thousand men), who shall be clothed and furnished with horses at their own expense, and armed, and otherwise equipped at the expense of the U. S. except such of them as may choose to furnish their own arms, and whose commissioned officers shall be appointed by the respective state and territorial authorities; who shall be liable to be called upon to do military duty at any time the President shall judge proper, within   years after he shall accept the same,—and when called into actual service and whilst remaining in the same shall be under the same rules and regulations, and be entitled to the same pay, rations, forage, and allowance for clothing with the regular troops of the U. S.

This report, together with the accompanying documents, were referred to a Committee of the Whole House to morrow.

A great deal of minor business was done, which shall be particularly noticed in our next paper.

To the Editor of the National Intelligencer.

SIR,

In the Washington Federalist of Tuesday last, which *accidentally* fell in my way, I am represented as having pronounced a censure upon the President of the U. S. which I utterly disclaim. The sentiment expressed was the very reverse of the one stated in the Federalist. When will the press cease to be the vehicle of such abominable misrepresentations? The Editors of papers who receive both the National Intelligencer, and the Federalist, are informed that the publication in the latter is not what it pretends to be, *even* "a sketch of my remarks."

J. ELLIOT.

PHILIP REID, esq. of Kent country, was on Friday laſt, elected a ſenator of Maryland in the Senate of the United State for the term of ſix years from the third day of March next.

Boston, Dec. 11.

BATTLES IN ITALY.

A gentleman, arrived in London from Leghorn, by the lateſt arrivals from the Continent, ſtates that prior to his departure (we have not been able to aſcertain the preciſe date, but know that it is recent) accounts had reached that city from Naples of great & continued diſaſters having befallen the French troops in Calabria.

It was fully underſtood there, that a ſecond general engagement had taken place, in which the French were completely defeated. General Jourdan is ſaid to have been killed by a muſket ſhot diſcharged from a tree by a Calabrian. Meſſina is alſo ſaid to have been dangerouſly wounded; and moſt of the officers of rank either killed or wounded. This victory, though glorious, was purchaſed with the loſs of many valuable lives.

After this ſanguinary affair, the remainder of the French fell back upon Naples, and it was even ſaid that they had quitted that city, and had fought ſhelter in the Roman territory.

We alſo learn that a reſpectable banking-houſe in the city received a letter from Vienna dated the 24th of Sept. which ſtates, that intelligence had been received there of the total diſperſion of the French troops in Calabria on the 22d Auguſt, when moſt of the officers of rank were killed prior to the flight of the French. This deciſive blow is ſaid to have been given by an armed force of inſurgents, headed by a woman of the name of Ruth whoſe huſband was inhumanly butchered by the French, for being inimical to the Uſurper's government. This formidable force call themſelves the "Army of Vengeance." Joſeph Bonaparte, the account ſtates, fled to Florence.

New-York, Dec. 13.

One of our Dutch papers, the Hague Royal Gazette of the 24th of October, remarks on the great battle of Jena, that it has paved the way for a termination to all conteſt between the powers of the continent and thoſe of France & Holland; that, Auſtria, Pruſſia, and Ruſſia will no longer be able to diſturb the repoſe of Europe. The battle of Auſterlitz, it inſinuates, has extinguiſhed the prejudice which operated in favor of the proweſs of Ruſſia; that of Jena has decided the military ſuperiority of France over Pruſſia; and both have annihilated indirectly the dominion of Great Britain over the ocean, without leaving to France and Holland the neceſſity of attacking her on her own iſland!

We ſhould not deſcend to notice theſe opinions, were they not uſhered to the world as the language of the Dutch government.

The ſame article concludes with obſerving that Holland may view in theſe circumſtances a pledge that her naval power will be reſtored, and her proſperity revived; and that a debt of gratitude for this is due to the "Great Napoleon," who has not only extended her power & eſtabliſhed her foreign influence, but has at the ſame time "effected her civilization & eſtabliſhed her internal greatneſs, by—placing on her throne one of his illuſtrious Brothers!"

New-York, Dec. 15.

Capt Pierce, arrived at Boſton on Monday from St. Ubes, informs that a Britiſh fleet ſtill continued to cruize off Liſbon. It was reported, that the French had threatened war againſt the Portugueſe if the Britiſh men of war were ſuffered to remain in port and they conſequently put to ſea. There were ſome fears that the French and Spaniards would take poſſeſſion of Portugal. It was not expected that any reſiſtance would be made.

Baltimore, Dec 17.

Extract of a letter from Com'dr. Jacob Jones, dated Ketch (Etna River), Miſsiſippi, Nov. 5th, 1806.

"I have the pleaſure to inform you of our arrival in the river yeſterday, with the gun boats No. 11 and 12, in company, and all in good condition. The Veſuvius ſeparated from us on the night of the 17th Oct. a few leagues eaſt of the iſland of Abico.

"The Ketches ſail very faſt—The gun boats far exceed our expectations—They were nearly as dry as the ketches, although they were kept under a preſs of ſail all the paſſage, which was unuſually rough.

"I have left No. 11 and 12 at Fort St. Philips, (about 10 leagues above the Balize) to wood and water and then proceed to Lake Ponchartrain and cruize there, according to orders that I received from Capt. Shaw, at the Balize."

The following is a ſtatement of the number of human beings, ſtolen from Africa and brought into the port of Charleſton South Carolina, ſince the Legiſlature opened that port for the admiſſion of Slaves and thereby encouraged the unrighteous buſineſs of dragging men, women and children from a ſtate of freedom and happineſs in their own country, to a ſtate of ſlavery and miſery in a foreign land.

Slaves reported at Fort Johnſon, ſince the opening of the port of Charleſton

In the Year 1804,	5,658
1805,	6,717
1806, to the 11th of Nov.	8,804
Total,	21,179

Some veſſels with ſlaves, being in diſtreſs when arrived at this port, could not be brought to for examination, conſequently, the number of ſlaves on board were not aſcertained.

Philadelphia paper.

PRUSSIAN MANIFESTO.

(CONTINUED.)

It was no longer doubtful that Napoleon had determined to overwhelm Pruſsia with war, or to render her forever incapable of war, since it was evident he was leading her from humiliation to humiliation, till she should be reduced to such a state of political degradation and feebleness, that she could have no other will than that of her formidable neighbour.

The last doubt at length disappeared; troops marched from the interior of France towards the Rhine. The intent to attack Pruſsia was clear and certain. The king ordered a note to be transmitted by gen. Knobelsdorf, containing the conditions on which he was ready to come to an accommodation. These conditions were,