CONGRESS.

House of Representatives.

THURSDAY, JAN. 21.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. VARNUM in the chair—on the resolution of a select committee, for repealing, in certain respects, the operation of the statute of limitations.

Mr. Stanton spoke in favor of adopting the report.

While this subject was under consideration, a message was received from the President; in consequence of which the committee rose—when the important message as given in our last, was read, and referred to Messrs. J. Randolph, Boyle, Campbell, Ten. Morrow, of Ohio, R. Nelson, Clinton, and Bidwell.

After transacting a good deal of other business, of subordinate interest, the House adjourned.

FRIDAY, JAN. 23.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. MASTERS in the chair—on the report of a select committee, on so much of the message of the President as relates to the fortifications of ports and harbors.

The resolutions reported by the committee were read as follows:

Resolved, That a sum of money not exceeding dollars, be appropriated to enable the President of the United States to cause our fortifications to be improved and repaired.

Resolved, That a further sum of money not exceeding dollars be appropriated to enable the President of the U. S. to cause to be built a number of gun-boats, not exceeding for the better protection of our ports, towns and rivers.

Mr. Mumford. Mr. Chairman, I rise to make a motion to which I am impelled from the strongest conviction in my mind, that it is of primary importance to the peace, the honor, the safety, and the welfare of this nation we should adopt some more efficient measures in defence of our own sea coast. It is no doubt within the recollection of every member of this committee that in the month of April last, a most unwarrantable outrage was committed against the peace and dignity of the United States, within your own jurisdiction, by the commander of a certain British ship of war, called the Leander, who, in open contempt of your laws, and the violation of the laws of nations, did actually commit murder on one of your own citizens, within your own limits, near the port of New-York, without provocation on his part, when in the lawful prosecution of his business.

However difficult it may be notwithstanding our earnest desire to devise some more effectual means which I hope will soon take place to relieve a worthy class of our citizens from the cruel bondage and the lacerating whip of a man of war, is not this humiliation sufficient? Must we still be called upon to drink up the dregs? Will the U.S. submit to the humiliating degration of having its own citizens murdered within its own limits, without making an effort and taking such strong ground as will prevent in future the repetition of the like crimes? No sir; this nation will not submit to it; Sir, we have had insult added to injury, and notwithstanding the Cambrian frigate has been denied the rights of hospitality by the President's proclamation in consequence of her participation in the murder of one of your citizens, yet a few days ago it appears another of your citizens has been seized by the commander of that frigate with force of arms and threatened at the peril of his life, that if he did not safely conduct that ship, contrary to the laws of his country, from cape Henry into Hampton roads, he would blow his brains out. She did arrive in Hampton Roads, and there replenished with a fresh supply of provisions, in order the more effectually to annoy your commerce, add new insults to your citizens and to your government.

I do not wish to excite alarm nor irritate this nation against any foreign government on earth, my wish is to cultivate peace and friendship with them all on honorable terms. But I never will consent to do it at the expence of the honor, the safety and the welfare of this nation. And I hope we shall in justice to ourselves and the duty we owe our country, pursue such prompt and efficient measures as will more effectually protect our own sea shores. Impressed with these sentiments, and in order to prevent a repetition of the like offences in future, and to aid in carrying into execution the proclamation of the President of the United States, dated in April last, I beg leave to move the following amendment to the first resolution:

And also to enable the President of the United States to equip, man, and maintain so much of the present naval force of the United States as he may judge proper.

Mr. Clinton supported; and Mr. R. Nelson opposed this motion; which was disagreed to—Ayes 45—Noes 50.

Mr. R. Nelson moved to fill the blank in the first resolution with "20,000."

Mr. Cook proposed "one million."

Mr. Mumford proposed "500,000."

The motion to fill the blank with one million was disagreed to—Ayes 12.

The motion to fill the blank with "500,600," was then put.

Messrs. Mumford, Clinton, Cook, and Tracy supported; and Messrs. Smilie, R. Nelson and Sloan opposed this motion, which was disagreed to—Ayes 38 Noes 65.

Mr. Mumford then moved to fill the blank with '400,000.'

This motion was likewise disagreed to—Ayes 37—Noes 66.

Mr. Mumford then proposed '300,000'—Disagreed to—Ayes 50—Noes 58.

Mr. Cook proposed '250,000.'

Mr. Smilie opposed this motion, which was negatived—Ayes 37—Noes 69.

Mr. Thomas moved to fill the blank with '100,000.'

Messrs. Thomas and N. Williams supported; and Messrs. Holland, and R. Nelson opposed this motion.

Mr. Cook moved to fill the blank with '200 000.'

Messrs. Cook, Stanton, and Southard, advocated; and Mr. Macon opposed this motion; which was disagreed to—Ayes 42—Noes 65.

The motion to fill the blank with '100,000,' shared the like fate—Ayes 51—Noes 60—as likewise the motion to fill it with '50,000'—Ayes 38.

When the motion of *Mr. R. Nelson* to fill the blank with '20,000' prevailed—Ayes 57—Noes 42.

Mr. R. Nelson moved to fill the first blank in the second resolution with '300,000.'

Mr. Mumford moved to fill it with '5,000.'

Mr. Cook supported the motion made by Mr. Nelson, which was disagreed to—Ayes 56—Noes 46.

Mr. Thomas moved to fill the blank with '250,000'—which motion prevailed—Ayes 53—Noes 53.

The second blank was then filled, on the motion of Mr. *R. Nelson*, with '50.'

Mr. R. Nelson moved an addition to the second section—appropriating the sum of to be applied by the President to arm, man, and equip either the whole, or such number of gun-boats as he may think the public welfare requires.

This motion was agreed to without a division.

Mr. Thomas offered an additional resolution, authorising and requesting the President to cause measures to be taken to ascertain how the port of New York may be best protected, and to obtain an estimate thereof.

This motion was objected to by Messrs. Smilie, Holland, and Lloyd, principally on the ground that if any such enquiry were made, it ought to be extended so as to apply to the other ports of the U. S.—and was negatived—Ayes 39—Noes 46.

The committee then rose and reported the bill.

Mr. Van Cortlandt moved an amendment to the addition to the second section, introduced at the instance of Mr. R. Nelson, authorising the President at any time to man and equip such of the other armed vessels as he may deem proper.

Messrs. Van Cortlandt, Elmer, Mumford and Cook supported; and Messrs Fisk and Barwell opposed this amendment.

When on motion of Mr. *Southard* the further consideration of the subject was postponed till Monday, to which day the House adjourned.

(Debate hereafter.)

To the Merchants of the District of Columbia, the Eastern Shore of Maryland and their vicinity.

GENTLEMEN,

The extension of commerce between the United States of America and the different nations of the globe, for the last few years, has been unparalleled in the annals of any nation either ancient or modern: among the numerous instances which might be adduced to prove this assertion, the flourishing state of our trade with the small island of Madeira, perhaps is not the least; whether we consider it as a mart for our own superfluities, the facilities it presents us with in our intercourse with other nations, or the revenue drawn from the produce of that comparatively small portion of the earth; it furnishes us with innumerable advantages. To elucidate the above, it is only necessary to peruse the annexed abstract of the exports to, and imports from that island during a period of fifteen months, commencing April 1st, 1805, and ending on the 30th of June, 1806—could it have been supposed, or even hoped, a very few years ago, that in so small a period 20,692 tons of American shipping should have entered and cleared there, and is it not still more surprizing that not one of those vessels have cleared out from this district, notwithstanding great quantities of produce has been actually shipped from hence for the express purpose of carrying on that trade.

As the undersigned proposes settling at Madeira for some years, he wishes to engage the attention of his fellow citizens of this district and its vicinity, to this lucrative branch of commerce, and being persuaded that it may be improved to the advantage of those concerned, he offers his best services either as an associate in trade, or in the general line of commission, and possessing every advantage that situation and a competent knowledge of the language of the country can be supposed to procure, he pledges his best endeavors to merit the confidence of those who may favor him with their commands, by an unremitting zeal and activity in the management of the concerns intrusted to his guidance.

As I propose leaving the United States in all next May, letters *post paid* from any part of the union will be punctually attended to, until the 1st of that month. Interim I remain very respectfully,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LEANDER CATHCART.

Consul for the United States, at the Island of Madeira.

George-Town, Columbia, Jan. 21st, 1807

ABSTRACT

Of the trade of the United States with the Island of Madeira, from the 1st April, 1805, to the 30th of June, 1806, in the carrying of which were employed 20,692 tons of American shipping.

	Barrels.
Flour,	40,510 1-2
Biscuit,	883
Crackers,	390
Beef,	1,746
Pork,	565
Hogslard,	26
Tongues,	11 1-2
Butter,	469
Oil,	36
Molasses,	35
Loaf Sugar,	3
Clayed, do.	7
Salmon,	150
Mackrel,	19
Herrings,	111
Bees wax,	51
Tar,	35
	Bushels.
Wheat,	15,900
Corn,	187 943
Pulse,	7 169
	Quintals.
Cod fish,	4,379
	Boxes.
Candles,	384
Do. Spermaceti,	14
Soap,	54
Cordials,	40
Oranges,	131
	Pieces.
Nankeens,	17,360
	Casks.
Cheese,	18
Hams,	3
Lime,	55
	Staves.
Pipe,	137,300
Hhd.	39,460
Bbl.	71,476
Heading,	11,500
Pipe packs,	903
Hhd. do.	633
Bbl. do.	447
Shooks,	1,129
	Feet.
Lumber,	552,573
Laths buns.	4,500
	Pipes and Puncheons.
Brandy,	1,083
Geneva,	2
Rum,	9
	Tierces.
Rice,	1,780 1-2

Sundries.

63	Chests of Tea,
2	Bales Indian Cotton,
1	do. Isinglass,
1	do. Flax,
18	Cases of Merchandize,
10	Doz. & 2 boxes Calve Skins,
12	Cases Furniture,
35	Doz. Chairs,
24	Coils Cordage,
9	Crates Earthenware,
714	Buns Iron Hoops,
169	do. Bars,
1150	lbs. Cheese,
11	Tons Potatoes.

Wines shipped from Madeira in the above period.

Pipes, 4,399

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26.

The reader is desired to correct an error in the arrangement of the documents which accompanied the message of the President, as inserted in a part of the impression of the last paper. That part of the documents, from the beginning to the 41st line of the 4th column, should have been placed at the end of the documents, instead of the beginning. It is an act of justice which the Editor owes himself, to state that this error is not in the least ascribable to him.

CÆSAR A. RODNEY is appointed Attorney General of the United States.

On Thursday evening last Errick Bollman and Samuel V. Swartwout arrived in this city, under a military escort, from Annapolis, where the vessels in which they came from New Orleans arrived at the same time. They have since, we understand, remained at the Marine barracks, under the charge of Lt. Col. Wharton.

Advices from New Orleans have been received as late as December 25th. Mr. Ogden had been again arrested—and Mr. Alexander. Gov. Claiborne had offered a reward for the apprehension of Burr.

The SENATE were engaged during the whole of Friday till a late hour, with closed doors. Both Houses adjourned over till Monday.

We lay before the public the following sketch of proceedings in the circuit court of the U. S. for the district of Columbia. We shall endeavor to present in our next paper a more comprehensive statement.

On FRIDAY Mr. Jones, the attorney of the District, invited the attention of the court to the situation of Erick Bollman and Samuel V. Swartwout, and the crimes laid to their charge. He made a number of remarks going to shew that they had been guilty of treasonable acts against the peace and union of the United States. Evidence to this effect he said would be adduced at a future period. He rose, however, merely to move that the court would issue a warrant directing the marshal of the district to take the prisoners, at present in the hands of military authority, into his custody. He grounded this motion on the affidavits of General Wilkinson, already published. He did this in obedience to instructions received from the executive of the U. S. whose wish it was that they should be surrendered into the hands of the civil authority. Mr. Jones then read the affidavits of General Wilkinson, and went into an argument at some length in support of his motion.

Various questions were submitted by the court, the object of which principally was to ascertain the specific offence charged, and the grounds on which the attorney supported it.

The attorney in reply, made an argument to shew that the offence charged was treason; but contended that if it were of inferior hue, still the arrest and commitment were proper to be made.

The court took time further to examine the case. Their hesitation to grant the motion of the attorney arose chiefly from the uncertainty of the offence charged against the prisoners in the affidavits of General Wilkinson; and from the necessity of specifying some specific offence in the warrant of arrest.

ON SATURDAY, on the opening of the court, Mr. Jones observed that it was his wish, previous to a decision on his motion, to submit the evidence of General Eaton and Mr. James Lowry Donaldson, for whom he moved subpœnas.

The court ordered subpoenas to be issued for these witnesses.

Mr. Caldwell then said that he held in his hand a petition signed by him in behalf of Messrs. Bollman and Swartwout, whose signatures could not be obtained, as access was denied to them. Mr. C. read the following petition:

To the Judges of the Circuit court of the U. S. in and for the district of Columbia.

Your petitioners Erick Bollman and Samuel Swartwout, respectfully represent that they are confined within the body of Washington county, in the district of Columbia, at the Marine Barracks under a military guard, without just and legal cause, and are deprived of the benefit of counsel, or being confronted with their accusers, and of being informed of the nature of their offence, or of the cause of their commitment. Your petitioners therefore request a writ of Habeas Corpus, in the usual form, directed to Lt. col. Franklin Wharton, or to such other person as may have the custody of your petitioners, that they may be proceeded against as the laws direct, and have an opportunity of being heard in their defence.

For and on behalf of Erick Bollman and Samuel Swartwout,

ELIAS B. CALDWELL,

Attorney.

After offering this petition Mr. C. made a concise speech in support of its prayer.

Mr. Jones opposed allowing the prayer of the petition, principally on the ground of its collision with the motion made by him, then depending before the court, the effect of which he contended would be the same as that produced by the writ of Habeas Corpus, if allowed.

Mr. Dorsey replied, in support of the petition.

Mr. Caldwell again spoke: and,

Mr. Jones replied.

Some further conversation ensued between the counsel—when chief justice Cranch declared it the opinion of the court, that before in strictness a right existed to claim a writ of Habeas Corpus, it must appear on affidavit that the warrant of commitment, or other authority, under which the confinement had taken place, had been refused, together with the grounds of refusal. Judge Cranch added that this decision was made under the 31st of Charles Second, which applied to this case.

A feint objection was made by Messrs. Caldwell and Dorsey to the application of this statute, which was over-ruled by the court.

A short time after this General Eaton and Mr. Donaldson appeared in court.

Mr. Jones said that the testimony of General Eaton would be lengthy, and in order to allow time for his drawing it out, he requested that he might be indulged until Monday.

This course was acquiesced in by the court in respect to both the witnesses.

Mr. Caldwell then offered the following affidavit:

District of Columbia—Washington County, ss.

On the 24th day of January, in the year of our Lord, 1807, personally appeared Elias B. Caldwell, who being duly sworn, deposeth and saith that he called on Lt. Col. Franklin Wharton, commandant of the Marine corps, and requested of him a copy of the warrant or cause of commitment of Erick Bollman and Samuel Swartwout, to which the said col. replied that he had no warrant of commitment, but that they were delivered to him in the usual military mode, and that they were merely under his care for safe keeping.

Sworn to before me the day and year above written.

WM. BRENT, Clk.

Mr. Caldwell added that he had not seen Mr. Bollman, and did not know whether it was his wish to apply for a writ of Habeas Corpus. He would, therefore, only move for a writ of Habeas Corpus for Mr. Swartwout.

Mr. Jones intimated a hope that some days should be allowed for making out the return to the writ, which might require deliberation and legal advise.

This was opposed by Messrs. Caldwell and Dorsey.

When the court ordered a writ of Habeas Corpus, in the case of Samuel Swartwout, returnable on Monday at 1 o'clock.

Extract of a letter, dated Nashville January 1, 1807.

"Nothing but conspiracies, plots, tubs, &c. &c. are talked of in your district at present, Col. Burr descended the river last week, bound for the Natchez, it was immediately suspected and rumoured abroad that his design was to *scale the walls of Mexico*, to sever the western country from the eastern states; and himself to be declared the monarch of the new empire! And all this was to be effected, by a few Cumberland boats, manned with a small number of raw boys!! All however was suspense and mere conjecture until the President's proclamation and the Aurora arrived in town, then what was doubt and suspicion the day before, was reduced to facts not to be contradicted, that conspiracies were actually in the bosom of our country, and that Mr. Burr was certainly a traitor, and as such, a party in this town burnt him in EFFIGY."

We understand that *bills* of the *quid emperor's* exchequer, have been literally protested in this city, to the amount of 80,000 dollars!—the BEARS on this occasion are not named—but it is certain that admiral *Blennerhassett* has made a *bull* of it. *Aurora.*

A Jewish Newspaper, in the Hebrew tongue, is about to make its appearance at Basle, principally on the subject of the deliberations which now occupy the assembly at Paris.

Baltimore, Jan. 22.

At Annapolis, schooners Greyhound, from St. Jago; Nimrod, from New Orleans; 2 other schooners and two brigs.

In the Nimrod, came passenger, Mr. Swartwout, under the charge of lieuts. Wilson and Mead; they proceeded to Washington this morning.

Baltimore, January 23.

From a person who came in the Lavater, arrived at Annapolis from New-Orleans, we understand that a proclamation had been issued at that place by the constituted authorities, offering a reward for the apprehension of colonel Burr, or the communication of any intelligence relative to the conspiracy—the attack was expected to be made on New Orleans, by Burr and his adherents on the 20th of this month, instead of the 20th of December, as stated by an arrival at Charleston, and published a few days since.

The Lavater brought dispatches to government. The state of affairs remained much the same as at the date of our last advices. The embargo was still continued. Ogden and Alexander had been arrested, and were to be sent to Washington in the schooner Brothers and Sisters, which would sail in a few days after the Lavater.

Pittsburgh, January 13.

A gentleman in Pittsburg has written a letter to a member of Congress, stating that I had made preparations to embark in the expedition of col. Burr, and was prevented from descending the river by sickness. This letter has been published in nearly all the newspapers east of the mountains.

Now, be it known, that the writer of the above mentioned letter, is an infamous liar and dare not avow his name. I never agreed to join the expedition, nor made preparations for that purpose. On the contrary, I ever have been and shall ever continue to be unalterably opposed to a dismemberment of the union and contribute every thing in my power to defeat any project to effect it.

The letter in question was fabricated by an unprincipled faction in Pittsburgh for no other purpose but to injure me, and obtain for the commonwealth the printing of the laws of the union.

The faction well knew that I had done every thing which an editor could do, to embarrass and defeat the expedition; and that a recurrence to this paper would evince it. Hence we may account for the base and rascally expedient of a private letter.

Those editors who have given publicity to the letter alluded to, will please to insert the above.

WALTER FORWARD.

KINGSTON, December 6 to 13.

6. The Anson frigate of 40 guns, capt. Ledyard; the Arathusa, 38, capt. Brisbane; and the Latona of 38 guns, capt. Wood, sailed from Port Royal on Saturday morning, for the purpose we understand, of taking possession of the Dutch Island of Curracoa.

We understand, by recent accounts from Carraccas, that among the French troops lately landed there from the imperial brig Austerlitz, and a schooner, are 250 cannoneers and four French general officers; and that the government were thrown into considerably greater consternation from this unexpected reinforcement than they were at the coming of Miranda, conceiving it was the first step of the French government to gain possession of that country.

DIVERSIONS OF PURLEY.

THE Subscription to this valuable and interesting work will be closed on the 31st inst. when the price will be advanced to three dollars per volume.

All persons desirous of obtaining the book at the original price of Two dollars Fifty cents per volume, may have it by subscribing for the 2nd and paying for the 1st vol. on any day prior to the 31st inst. at DUANE'S Bookstore, Pennsylvania avenue.

The 2d vol. is now published in Philadelphia, and will be received here so soon as the ice permits the passage of boats down the Delaware January 26 — 3t

A STRAY.

CAME to the subscriber's plantation near the Eastern Branch, the middle of November last a dark brindle COW, the left horn sawed off; the right ear slit. The owner is requested to prove property, pay charges and take her away. RICHARD SNO.

January 26——3t

Montgomery county January 5th, 1807.

THIS day Richard James brought before me a stray black HORSE with a brown muzzle, several saddle spots about 14 hands 3 inches high—no perceivable brand, and about 9 or 10 years old——Given under my hand and seal this day and date above written.

Jan 26—3t THOS. SIMPSON.