[illegible] received by the state o[illegible] [illegible] is [illegible] during the last war. A law [illegible] the importation of slaves [into the] United States, after the 31st [of] December, 1807. A bill from the [Senate to raise] an additional number [of regular] troops, is now before the House of Representatives, but I believe [it will not pass]; for myself, I think the present military establishment with the aid of the militia on our frontiers, sufficient to repel the attempts of the adjacent Indians or Spaniards, if they meditate mischief, and am therefore unwilling to incur an expence of a million of dollars annually when there is no necessity existing. In November, when the Spaniards crossed the Sabine river, and occupied the country on this side claimed by the U. S. our army was ordered to drive them back by force, if necessary; the commanding officer discharged 400 militia, drawn from the Mississippi territory, after ascertaining their real numbers; from this circumstance, it is evident our present force is sufficient to maintain the country against the Spaniards, with any number of men they can collect from their thinly settled provinces to the west of [illegible], the important settlements of which are very remote, and can only be brought to the field with great difficulty, nor is it probable, after the arrangements between general Wilkinson and the Spanish commanders, we shall be again molested, until our negociations with Spain have terminated; they declare their instructions positively forbid any aggression on the U. S. and have agreed not to enter the disputed countries until the title is settled by the two countries; but to provide against events which may require the interposition of military force we have authorised the President to accept the services of 30,000 volunteers, to be employed against any foe, for two years, to be paid and governed by the regulations of war, when engaged in actual service, provided the officers shall be appointed by the executive of the states to which they respectively belong. This number of men can be easily procured and will be always ready, without expence to the government; they will be competent, to avert danger until stronger measures can be adopted, and will relieve others from service, whose families and pursuits would render them averse to militar[y] duty unless their country was really endangered, and required general exertions from the people.

I shall now take a view of a very important law passed this session, to expedite the payment of the whole of the national debt. In 1801, eight millions of dollars were annually appropriated for this purpose, and such has been the effect of this law, that on the first day of January last, twenty-four millions of dollars, principal of the debt, had been paid off, and during the present and next year nine and a half millions more will be paid—making on the first day of January, 1809, thirty-three and a half millions of dollars; and leaving a balance of 57,491,838 dollars, due from the United States to their creditors. After the period last mentioned, from the terms of the original contract between the government and those who own the debt, only four millions and a half of dollars can be paid towards its extinguishment; this sum will, in the year 1824, have discharged all demands against the U. S. except the 3 per cent. stock, amounting to nineteen millions, and bearing an interest of 570,583 dollars; but if the public creditors will consent to modify the debt, and accept stock reimbursable within seven years, (agreeable to the provisions of the law) the whole debt will be discharged in 1821; and calculating the revenue and expenditures of the government, to continue what they are at present, there would be an accumulation of at least fifteen millions surplus revenue. Another very material benefit will result to the U. S. from the proposed commutation of the debt, without doing injustice or injury to the public creditors: nineteen millions of the stock bear an interest of only three per cent. in perpetuity, unless the government shall choose to advance to the holders of it, the amount of its nominal value, while money continues worth six per cent. it is evident we shall never throw away what yields six per cent. to pay a debt bearing only three. In order to obviate this difficulty, the secretary of the treasury is authorised to compound with the owners of this stock, and purchase it up at the price at which it is bought and sold in the market, between individuals, by issuing a new six per cent. stock to that amount, redeemable at the pleasure of the U. S after they have satisfied all other claims, except that for the purchase of Louisiana. Instead, therefore, of being saddled with the perpetual charge of 570,583 dollars annually, or paying 19,000,000 dollars, we shall be discharged from both by advancing about [illegible] millions. Unless this measure had been adopted after 1809, the commissioners of the sinking fund would have had no other way of applying one half of the annual appropriation of eight millions, than by making purchases; and it is believed that purchases annually, to the amount of four millions, would raise the six per cent. stocks considerably above par, and the three per cents to the highest price possible; "as a necessary consequence, they would cease to purchase, and the United States would continue to be incumbered for a number of years with the eight per cent. and in perpetuity with the three per cent. annuities; years the most favorable for the extinguishment of the debt, would elapse, and periods might follow, when the pressure of annual payments would be sensibly felt; to improve the present time is most consistent with the public opinion, and the former acts of the legislature." Who can doubt the propriety of this policy? Is it not better than to suffer these large sums to remain in the treasury, and at some future period to be wasted with prodigality, or employed for purposes of corruption, and in times of difficulty, overwhelm the community with taxes, which otherwise would never be wanted, either for purposes of defence, or internal improvement. It is a fact, that the revenue of the U. States, even in its present state, would be sufficient to meet any emergency, but for the debt with which it is clogged; let it however be recollected, this debt is justly due, and ought to be honestly paid. It is the compensation given to those who rendered services, and furnised the means by which our revolutionary war against England was maintained, and our independence atchieved. It is the price we have paid for the liberty we enjoy, and the happiness we expect; but let it also be recollected, it is our duty to discharge its speedily, and not permit that which annihilated foreign tyranny to grow and establish domestic servitude.

I have been minute on this subject, because it is one of the most valuable effects which flow from that peaceable course pursued by the government of the United States; which is characterized by preserving strict neutrality towards foreign nations, treating them all with justice, and participating in the quarrels of none; reposing entire confidence in the people themselves, to repress insurrections, repel invasions, and preserve tranquility; avoiding military preparations which can never be wanting to restrain freemen, and would be inadequate to resist foreign attacks, which only consume the public money, without promoting the public prosperity; in fine, which consist in the retrenchment of all useless expenses, the abolition of unnecessary establishments of every kind, the repeal of taxes, whose proceeds are almost absorbed in their collection, and serve only to enlarge the circle of executive patronage, without enriching the public treasury. Nothing but the intervention of war can retard or defeat this career of national prosperity; and when I consider our distance from the nations of Europe, the unsettled state of that continent, and the motives which the principal powers have (especially while engaged in war with one another,) to cultivate harmony with us, I cannot but hope our tranquility will remain undisturbed, until we have effected the great purposes for which peace is so peculiarly desirable.

We have passed a bill continuing the Mediterranean fund until January next, and repealing the duty of eight cents laid on salt in 1797, on the 30th of June, and the remaining twelve after the 30th of September. I could have wished the whole duty to be taken off at once, but the Senate has rejected the bill containing that provision, and I think the present mode, if the Senate will concur, preferable to the continuance of the tax, probably for years.

The law passed at the last session, prohibiting the importation of certain articles of merchandize from England into the United States, has been suspended until July next. It was understood that negociations were proceeding favorably, and promised an advantageous issue to this country, and that the further suspension of this law, by affording a proof of confidence in the friendly disposition of the British government, would tend to facilitate a final accommodation of all differences between the two nations. I was in favor of the measure, because I feel determined to adopt every plan which will secure peace, without surrendering the national honor.

An event has recently occurred, which supercedes the necessity of our enforcing the provisions of this law, unless indeed there shall be a repetition of injuries towards the commerce and citizens of the United States, we have been officially informed that a treaty was signed on the 31st of December, between this country and Great Britain, and although the terms are still unknown, from the character of the American minister, and the assurance we have received that the great points of difference have been settled, I feel confident its provisions will be satisfactory, past injuries will be redressed, commerce will be protected in future, and the seamen of this country preserved from impressment.

The late decree of the French emperor, declaring England in a state of blockade, and interdicting all intercourse with that island, gave great and just apprehensions to the people at large; they feared their vessels and property would have been seized and confiscated, and their country in resisting practice upon such a principle, would have been involved in unavoidable difficulties. A letter from the minister of marine in France, to general Armstrong, (laid before Congress) assures him the decree is not intended to affect American trade, and that the convention of 1800, continues to form the rule by which the French cruizers will be governed towards us. It remains to be seen whether this explanation is authorised, and we should regulate our conduct by that result.

I should be extremely gratified if I could announce the termination of all differences between this country and Spain, the only nation with whom we have any misunderstanding: the latest accounts mention a commissioner had been appointed, and had met the American minister to treat upon the subject, but the result has not yet transpired. I entertain very little doubt, that when the termination of Burr's conspiracy, and the warm, unshaken attachment of the western people to the union are known in Europe, Spain will be convinced of the impossibility of dismembering the union, the futility of tampering with our citizens, and roused to a sense of danger for her weak, defenceless colonies, which are only preserved to her by the good faith of this government, and its exertions to restrain those that are ready to wrest them from her. The treaty with England will have considerable effect: Spain will know while her ships are driven from sea, her distant settlements menaced by expeditions from England, it will be impossible to send aid to her provinces adjacent to us, and that they must fall the moment they are attacked. From every view I am able to take of this subject, it does appear to me that we shall avoid a conflict with Spain; but if that should not be the case, I do not apprehend the least injury from any force she can oppose to that of the United States.

I cannot conclude without congratulating you on the happy state of our country; while every other portion of the globe is doomed to suffer the miseries of war, and the oppression of despotic power, we enjoy profound peace, and exemption from violence; our national debt is rapidly extinguished, our commerce extended to every sea, our revenue growing with unexampled quickness, and our resources of every kind equalling the expectations of the most ardent friend of his country. The perpetuation of these blessings depends upon ourselves: the happy destiny of this country can never be changed while the union is supported, and the constitution maintained and administered in its true meaning and spirit.

I have now communicated what appeared to me most important to be known. I do not attribute to myself any merit for our prosperous condition, but I can with truth declare, I have never lost sight of what I thought was the public interest, and that as long as you continue to intrust me with your confidence, the same sentiments will govern my conduct.

Accept my best wishes.

WM. A. BURWELL.

(By Authority.)

AN ACT

Making compensation for extra services to the governor, judges and secretary of the Indiana territory

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the secretary of the treasury be, and he hereby is directed to pay to the governor, judges and secretary of the Indiana territory out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, the sum of three hundred dollars each, as a compensation for the extra services by them performed, in obedience to the act, entituled "An act erecting Louisiana into two territories, and providing for the temporary government thereof."

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
S. SMITH, *President of the Senate, pro-tempore.*
March 3, 1807.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT

Disapproving of an act passed by the governor and judges of the territory of Michigan entituled "An act concerning the bank of Detroit."

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That an act, entituled, "An act concerning the bank of Detroit," adopted and published by the governor and judges of the territory of Michigan, on the nineteenth day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and six, is hereby disapproved of by Congress, and that the same shall be of no force or effect.

NATHL MACON.
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
S. SMITH.
President of the Senate pro tempore.
March 3, 1807.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

AN ACT

To establish certain post-roads; and for other purposes.

BE *it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the following post-roads be established:

IN ORLEANS.—From New Orleans to the Balize, and from New Orleans by the mouth of the Fourche, mouth of the Canal of Attakapas, Lake Veret, the ferry of Lake Veret, the mouth of Feache, the church of Attacapas, and the church of Appelousas, to Rapides. And the Post-master-general be, and he is hereby authorised to allow and pay to the Post-master, which may be appointed at the Balize, in addition to the legal fees of office, such sum as he may judge reasonable, and not exceeding four hundred dollars, per annum, as a compensation for his services.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That the President of the United States is hereby authorised, to cause to be opened a road from the thirty-first degree of north latitude to New Orleans, on the route from Athens to New Orleans, under such regulations as may be agreed upon for that purpose, between the Executive of the United States, and the Spanish government. And he is hereby authorised to expend, in opening the same, any part of the money heretofore appropriated for opening a road on the said route from the frontier of Georgia to to the thirty-first degree of north latitude, which remains unexpended.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
S. SMITH,
President of the Senate, pro tempore.
March 3, 1807.
APPROVED,
TH: JEFFERSON.

Foreign Intelligence.

New-York, March 10.

The ship Enterprize, captain Packwood, arrived at this port on Sunday evening in 40 days from London, & has furnished us with a regular file of London papers to the 15th of January inclusive and Lloyd's Lists to the 13th. The intelligence from the continent of Europe, contained in these papers, is not so late as we have already laid before the readers of the Mercantile Advertiser by way of France—they furnish us, however, with several articles which will be found peculiarly interesting to the commerce and policy of the United States.

LONDON, JAN. 12.

A letter from Lisbon, dated 27th December, says "General Crawfords's expedition passed Madeira on the 7th December, all well." The object of it was not then known, but it is probably destined against the Mauritius, which has been a source of great annoyance to our East-India trade.

JAN. 13.

By information derived from a secret but authentic source, we are compelled to believe that our suspicions respecting the nature of the new American treaty are but two well founded. We understand that by the provisions of this treaty, the Americans are to be permitted to carry goods from the colonies of our enemies to France, Spain, &c. upon condition of their touching at an American port in their passage, and there paying a duty of two per cent on their cargoes. This being the case (truly happy should we be to find it otherwise) all our navigation acts, all our maritime code, all our right of search, may be considered as abrogated and abandoned; for, from the moment this treaty shall be ratified, the whole become useless. From that moment we may be at war with France, Spain, and Holland but with their colonies we shall be at peace. Their trade will be carried on with complete security by the Americans—the circuitous route, by touching at an American port with the two per cent duty, will not produce a charge so heavy as our war insurance; and the enemy will thus retain in war the full benefit of their colonial system, except in the articles of freight.

The following are the regulations adopted in the ports, of France, Holland &c. for carrying into execution the decree of Blockade against England.—

"The two articles of the decree relating to this object, shall be notified to all captains of vessels on their arrival by the commandants of his majesty's ships stationed at the entrance of the Imperial [ports].

"The captains are to declare from what port they were fitted out, from whence they come, and the ports they have touched at. They are to give a general description of their cargo, and affirm that they neither come directly from England nor her colonies.

"If the declaration shall signify that they have touched at England, the vessels shall be obliged to retire. If it should be the marine, by the stationary commander, who is to keep a copy of it. This administrator shall take measures with the principal officers of the customs for ascertaining the truth of it.

"If the declaration is found to be correct, the vessel shall be admitted; if false, both vessel and cargo shall be seized, conformable to the 8th article of the decree.

"The master of a foreign vessel, who shall refuse to sign this declaration, shall be compelled to put to sea again, and all communication with the shore shall be strictly prohibited, until the vessel have failed."

January 15.

We understand that subsidiary treaties have been entered into by our government, with the courts of Russia, Sweden, and Prussia, by which we have engaged to furnish them with 5,000,000l. sterling, to enable them to keep the field against the common enemy.

There is no military news of the least importance. The report of the defeat of the French army on the Vistula is not confirmed; and we have only the same observation to make in respect to a rumour of a directly opposite description, which obtained circulation yesterday on the pretended authority of letters from Riga. The reported action was stated to have lasted three days, and terminated in the defeat of the Russians; that this, we repeat, rests on no better foundation than the report which has given the victory to the Imperial army. The rumours upon this subject will, indeed continue to be contradictory, until the arrival of some official or authentic advice.

The progress of the Russians in Turkey continues to be uninterrupted, and may lead to consequences of the utmost importance. According to the last advices, they were distant not more than three hundred miles from Dalmatia; and as their object seems to be to extend their line thither, we entertain hopes of shortly finding the enemy expelled from that province.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Jan. 14.

AMERICAN TRADE.

General Gascoigne seeing the Noble Lord opposite (Howick) in his place, wished to put a question to him on a subject of much importance to the commercial world, and involving in a very great extent the interests of his constituents. A letter had been published lately, written by the noble lord to a principal American merchant (Mr. Sansom), which letter required some further explanation to remove an uncertainty that had been created by it, as to the safety of resuming the exportation to America, which had been prohibited by the non-importation act of that country. He wished to know from the noble lord, whether that act had undergone any alteration. It had not come within the range of his information that Congress had been assembled so as to make any legislative alteration with respect to the act; and he was not aware whether the President of the United States may have power to modify, or suspend the execution of it. In this uncertainty he addressed himself to the noble lord for such information as may make it generally known if the trade could be resumed with safety; or if it was still attended with all its recent hazard of confiscation, in order that, if there was no risque the benefit of the trade should be enjoyed universally; and if there was risque, that no individual should want warning to avoid it. He hoped that the treaty recently signed, into the provisions of which he did not mean to pry, would be the means of establishing lasting concord and amity between the two countries.

Lord Howick was desirous to give all possible publicity to every thing which it was of importance to the commercial world to make generally known. He did not know to what extent the hon. gentleman's idea of proper publicy may go; but the House must be aware that it was impossible to give the particular and circumstantial information which the hon. general desired in this case. The communication made by him to the chairman of the committee of American merchants, was a communication of the mere fact of the signing of the treaty. Undoubtedly, if the treaty should be ratified, as there was every reason to expect it would be, the non-importation act would be repealed of course, and all proceedings had under it would be reversed. This was all the information he could give. He took this opportunity of answering a question put by the learned gentleman (Mr. Percival) on a former night, which had escaped attention in the speech he had then made. The learned gentleman wished to know whether there was in this treaty any reserve to his majesty of the right to exercise a controul, and to enforce restrictions corresponding to those with the imposition of which the enemy presumed to menace the trade of his majesty's subjects with neutral nations. He had now to state, that there certainly was in this treaty a full reservation to his majesty of the right to exercise restrictions equivalent to those which neutral nations may submit to allow the enemy to exercise by their means against the commerce of his majesty's subjects.

From the London Gazette, Jan. 10.

At the court of the Queen's Palace, the 7th of January, 1807, present, the kings most excellent majesty in council.

Whereas the French government has issued certain orders, which, in violation of the the usages of war, purport to prohibit the commerce of all neutral nations with his majestys's dominions; and also to prevent such nations from trading with any other country in any articles the growth, produce, or manufacture of his majesty's dominions: and whereas the said government has also taken upon itself to declare all his majesty's dominions to be in a state of blockade, at a time when the fleets of France and all her allies are themselves confined within their own ports by the superior valor and discipline of the British navy; and whereas such attempts on the part of the enemy would give to his majesty an unquestionable right of retaliation, and would warrant his majesty in enforcing the same prohibition of all commerce with France, which that power vainly hopes to affect against the commerce of his majesty's subjects, a prohibition which the superiority of his majesty's naval forces might enable him to support, by actually investing the ports and coasts of the enemy with numerous squadrons and cruizers, so as to make the entrance or approach thereto manifestly dangerous; and whereas his majesty, though unwilling to follow the example of his enemies, by proceeding to an extremity so distressing to all nations not engaged in the war, and carrying on their accustomed trade, yet feels himself bound by a due regard to the just defence of the rights and interests of his people, not to suffer such measures to be taken by the enemy, without taking some steps on his part to restrain this violence; and to retort upon them the evils of their own injus-