pose the bill contemplated these seamen to be raised.

The *Speaker* said, for the service of the United States.

Mr. *Chandler* said he had understood that to be the case and wished things to be called by their proper names. He thought, as this was the case, that these men were to be raised for the service of the U. S. and not merely for the sake of supporting them, as gentlemen seemed to fancy. This number was declared to be necessary, and was only contemplated to be called into service, if the public exigency required, and not otherwise.

Mr. Dawson said he was extremely sorry that he could not express himself to the comprehension of gentlemen. He had indeed mentioned that there were a number of seamen unemployed; he had given it as a reason why that number should now be raised, as when unemployed they could be got without difficulty. He had not considered the bill as contemplated to afford charity to seamen; but if gentlemen would bring forward a motion of that kind, he would go as far as any body. But the present bill contemplated no such thing; the fact was, that the vessels now built were not manned. The simple question was, would they or would they not give the government men sufficient to man these vessels for actual service?

Mr. Quincy was glad that the motives on which the bill was founded had been explained; for really he had not been able before distinctly to ascertain them. As he now understood the object of it was that the vessels now lying in our harbors without men should be immediately manned. Would this be produced by the bill on the table? He thought not. He could not correctly understand the operation of the bill, for it had been read but once or twice, and then the hearing of it was almost precluded by the noise and inattention which prevailed; but it did appear to him that the President had not any right given to him to employ these men except in case of an exigency yet to arise. The bill did not contemplate the immediate manning of all the vessels; these men were not to be raised unless an exigency should arise. If that exigency did exist the bill should take away the discretion, and express affirmatively that this number should be raised.

Mr. Nicholas said, that upon this subject he owed it to himself to say that he had entertained but one opinion. He had believed that arming the nation and being prepared for war had been the duty of this House and of the other branch of the Legislature ever since they had been convened. Not that I want war, said Mr. N. but that if it comes upon us we may be prepared to meet it. If we want peace, the only way to obtain it, is to shew that we are ready for war. Upon this ground I have been anxious to see the nation put in a state of defence. If all the gun-boats were in readines to receive men, my vote should be given without hesitation to raise a sufficient number of men to man the whole. We are told that the present number is wanted; I will therefore vote for it with the greatest cheerfulness. I wish more could be employed. Whenever the question occurs of relieving those seamen out of employ and in distress, I will meet it with as much liberality as any gentleman. The only question now is, do the circumstances of the country require that we should raise this number? I believe that the circumstances of the country require that we should not only raise seamen but landsmen. Therefore at present I shall vote for the number asked, and as soon as more boats are ready my vote shall be given for manning them as fast as they can be erected.

After a further desultory debate (in which the Speaker repeatedly reminded gentleman of the question under consideration) in which Messrs. Lyon, Gardenier, Livermore, Fisk, Dana, Rhea (Pen.) Smilie and Tallmadge took a part, and none of whom opposed the bill.

Mr. Tallmadge moved that the further consideration of the bill be postponed till to-morrow, that gentlemen might have an opportunity of filling it with a smaller or greater number.

This motion being was opposed by Messrs. Dawson, Nelson and Taylor, and supported by Messrs. Desha, Quincy, Blackledge, Cook and Dana; in the course of which,

Mr. *Nelson* wished to see who were desirous of consuming time in this way, who were in favor of arming the nation, and who against it. If the documents before the House were voluminous, if the bill were long, or if there were any difficulty in understanding either, he should be willing to postpone in order to have them printed. But the plain question was, whether would they or would they not employ 1272 seamen? Every hour was of consequence; they could now get men for five or seven dollars per month; but if they waited till these men could get employ on board merchant ships at fifteen dollars a month, it would be difficult to procure them for national service. As he said before, he was desirous to see who were willing to arm the nation and who were not, and therefore he called for the yeas and nays on the motion for postponement.

Mr. Dana. Have we an enemy at our doors? Are we now to be called into battle? Is there any thing new which calls upon us particularly at this moment? Shall it be said that those who wish to postpone this bill till to-morrow are not ready to provide for the defence of the country? Mr. D. said, one day could make no difference. Hearing this bill read as well as he could from the peculiar difficulty of distinguishing exactly what was said in this splendid structure, he understood it as providing for a means of defence, or as providing for the employment of such a number of seamen now out of employ. In either case it was not an improper exercise of legislative power, and need not be so hastily pushed through the House, there being nothing contained in the bill which forbade the usual course of proceeding.

Mr. Holland moved to adjourn—Negatived, 53 to 43.

Mr. Quincy supported the motion for postponement, contending that they were now legislating in the dark.

The yeas and nays being taken on the motion for postponement, were yeas 51, nays 64.

Mr. Stanford moved that the House adjourn—Negatived 65 to 49.

The question was then taken on concurrence with the number (1272) reported by the committee of the whole as follow:

YEAS—Messrs. Alexander, W. Alston, Bacon, Bard, Barker, Bassett, Bibb, Blackledge, Blount, Boyle, Brown, Butler, Calhoun, Champion, Chandler, Chittenden, Clay, Clopton, Cobb, Cook, Cutts, Dana, Davenport, Dawson, Deane, Desha, Durell, Elliott, Ely, Eppes, Findley, Fisk, Franklin, Gardenier, Gardner, Goldsborough, Goodwyn, Green, Harris, Heister, Helms, Holland, Holmes, Howard, Humphreys, Isley, Jenkins, Johnson, Jones, Kelly, Kenan, Kirkpatrick, Knight, Lambert, Lewis, Livermore, Love, Lyon, Marion, Masters, M'Creery, Milner, J. Montgomery, T. Moore, Jere. Morrow, Jno. Morrow, Mosely, Mumford, Nelson, Newbold, Newton, Nicholas, Pitkin, Porter, Pugh, Quincy, Rea, (Penn.) Rhea, (Tenn.) J. Richards, M. Richards, Riker, Russell, Seaver, Sloan, Smelt, Smilie, J. K. Smith, Jno. Smith, Southard, Stedman, Storer, Sturges, Swart, Taggart, Tallmadge, Troup, Upham, Van Allen, Van Dyke, Verplanck, Wharton, Wilbour, Williams, Wilson, Winn, Witherall, Thomson, Van Horn—108.

NAYS—Messrs. Garnett, Gray, Hoge, Macon, D. Montgomery, Randolph, S. Smith, Stanford, Taylor, Trigg—10.

Mr. Taylor moved to amend the bill by inserting a clause restricting the continuance of the law for a longer time than till the first day of July next, and no longer.

Mr. T. said as in the course of discussion the naval militia had been considered as an object likely to be accomplished, and as he considered the bill as it now stood as compromitting this principle, which had been avowed by many gentlemen in a discussion on a former subject, and as he conceived it necessary to give to the people some pledge that the boats would be manned as expected, he had proposed this limitation. It might be said that the limitation should not be so restricted, that it should extend until the next meeting of Congress; but he would not compromit his principle for a year. Till the 1st of June would be time sufficient in which to organise the marine militia. Although there appeared to be a great majority in favor of this bill, it would, as it now stood, compromit the principle on which they had lately acted; if he were but permitted to read the speeches of gentlemen on the gun-boat system, he could satisfactorily prove this. He was desirous, not for himself, for he should vote consistently, but that the body should hold out to the nation the ground on which they acted.

Mr. Nelson wished, upon the subject of consistency that the sins of every man should lie upon his own head. If he gave an inconsistent vote, he should never ask his friend from South Carolina to come forward and account for it; he had no doubt but those who elected him, the superior power, would punish him if he deserved it. A majority of the House had thought proper to vote for the number of 1,272; they had thought it necessary as the country was in a dangerous situation, perhaps on the eve of war; they did not know how soon these seamen might be wanted to defend the nation. Did any gentleman suppose, said he, that if we are to have war, its force will be spent before the first day of July next, at that time we may be in the same situation in which we now find ourselves. I trust no gentleman who is a friend to the measure will vote for the gentleman's motion. I would rather negative the bill altogether than say that a defensive measure shall exist but four or five months. If the gentleman will amend his motion so as to extend the duration of the bill to the end of the next session of Congress, or till the 1st. January instead of July, I will vote for the amendment with all my heart and soul. I have as little disposition to erect a standing army or large naval force as any gentleman; but as this is a measure of relief to seaman out of employ on the one hand and of defence on the other I shall vote for it.

A motion being now made to adjourn was carried 50 to 43.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26.

Mr. Mumford presented a memorial from sundry merchants and traders in the city of New York, praying for a further time for the payment of bonds due to the U. S. for duties on goods, wares, and merchandise imported into the U. States. Referred to the committee of Commerce and Manufactures.

Mr. Newton, from the committee of Commerce and Manufactures, reported a bill to allow the importation of copper free of duty. Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. *Dawson* the unfinished business of yesterday was postponed till to-morrow, and the bill and documents ordered to be printed.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. HELMS in the chair, on the bill for classing the militia. The motion for striking out the first section being yet under consideration, the motion was opposed by Messrs. M. Clay and Nelson, and supported by Messrs. Varnum and Van Dyke, by the latter at great length: when the committee rose and obtained leave to sit again.

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27.

Owing to the great length of Monday's Proceedings in the House of Representatives, we have been obliged to defer a continuation of the Debate relative to Gen. Wilkinson to our next.

Extract of a letter from a member of the Assembly of Virginia, to his friend in Washington, dated the 22d January, 1808.

"Two caucusses were held here last night, on the subject of the Presidential Election—one by the friends of Mr. Madison, and the other by the friends of Mr. Monroe. The result of which was, that there were 134 members of the Legislature for Mr. Madison, and 57 for Mr. Monroe. The friends of Mr. Madison formed their Electoral Ticket and Corresponding Committees."

On the 25th of December the Danish Island of Santa Croix capitulated to the English.

NOTICE.

A Meeting of the UNITED STATES MILITARY PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY will be held at the first apartment on the right hand in the War Office, on Saturday the 30th instant, at half past six, P. M. The chair will be taken at 7 precisely. Should any of the individal notices miscarry the members are requested to attribute the failure to accident, and attend notwithstanding. Commissioned officers of the army, marine corps and navy, whether members or not, are also requested to attend.

JONA. WILLIAMS,
President.

January 26—2t

From the Norfolk Herald of Jan. 19.

Our readers will recollect a communication which appeared in the Herald of the 12th inst. on the subject of the frigate *Statira*. The communication stated, that a boat with passengers from Hampton to this place, & provisions for the *Statira*, called alongside of that frigate for the purpose of delivering the provisions; when arrived alongside the frigate, they were saluted with the groans of persons who appeared to be suffering the most excruciating torture. This became so distressing to the passengers on board the boat, that they became anxious to leave their situation and proceed on their journey, when they were treated in the most brutal manner, and were threatened with being fired into unless they waited until it was the pleasure of his *Majesty's* officers to receive the provisions. The source from which the screams and groans proceeded is now known, and the cause which produced them is also well known. We state it on the most respectable information, which admits not of the probability of a doubt, that they were the groan of *American citizens*, writhing under the lash of petty tyrants!—and their crime, having declared they were *American citizens* and having sent some letters on shore by the pilot, notifying the Collector of this port of their fate and praying his interference!

Chillicothe, Jan. 5.

Burr, Blannerhassett and Luther Martin, three choice spirits, who compose a *triumvirate* of worthies, did not think it advisable to make their appearance at the circuit court, which commenced its session yesterday in this town.—It would be a matter of peculiar gratification to many of the citizens of the Western Country, if Mr. Martin would be so good as to tell the public what has become of his *honorable and much respected friend*, Colonel Burr. The colonel, we readily admit, did not receive justice in the city of Richmond; but we are intirely pursuaded, that if he will come hither he will be fairly according to his works.

The court, composed of judges Todd and Byrd, directed that Aaron Burr should be called and his recognizance read; and a forfeiture of this recognizance will no doubt be entered. The council for Blannerhassett objected to the reading of that gentleman's recognizance. He contended that errors were contained in it, and that he conceived it to be indispensably necessary that Blannerhasset should be first served with a notice, before it can with propriety be said, that his recognizance is forfeited. Upon this subject, the counsel for and against Burr, and Blannerhassett, were debating, when it became necessary for the *Fredonian* to be put to press. In our next number we shall furnish our readers with the proceedings of the court.

Philadelphia, Jan. 23.

We understand, that eighteen of the unfortunate young men belonging to Miranda's enterprize, and who were captured by the Spaniards, lately made their escape from the prison at Carthagena. Of this number, 15 were unhappily retaken. The remaining three, we are informed, have fortunately reached the United States in good health.

Advices from Port-au-Prince, dated Dec. 8, received at Nassau, (N. P.) state, "That great confusion existed in the south quarter of St. Domingo; several of the blacks in the vicinity of Jeremie had revolted against the government of Petion, and a general Maglore, who formerly commanded at Jacmel, had rebelled. He gained a regiment over to his plan, but being taken with twenty of his followers, his views were frustrated; he poisoned himself, and the rest were to be shot. Coffee very scarce and dear at all the ports, and will be so un il the new crop come in—The markets are said to be overstocked with all kinds of European commodities."

New-York, Jan. 20.

Extract of a letter from Amsterdam, dated Dec. 2.

"By London letters of the 21st Nov. accounts are in town of a meeting that was held by the merchants there, to obtain an explanation of the late orders of the British council of the 11th. At this meeting assurances were given by authority, that American vessels having cleared before the 21st Jan. will be considered by the British government as not having had notice of the decree; that those cleared out after that day, and before the 10th Feb. will be subject to the decision of Parliament, and after that the decree will be in full force. Thus you will perceive there are, nearly two months time allowed in which we may expect American vessels, even should not the British government think it adviseable to give still further indulgence. Unless indeed the first decree of the 11th should provoke a retaliating one from Napoleon, who very probably will not attend to these modifications and exceptions. However, let us be satisfied with the present favorable turn of affairs."

New-York, January 22.

We have been some time in possession of the fact that the king of Spain had been induced to pardon the prince of Asturias, who had engaged in a conspiracy to deprive him of his throne, but as we could not announce it officially, we have preferred waiting until some arrival from Spain should enable us to give it a more authentic "form and pressure," than could be done from oral testimony. We have received the following from Cadiz:

Extract of a letter, dated November 18th.

"Political affairs seem more and more perplexing daily. The reigning family of Portugal are to be annihilated, and that country annexed to this, and no doubt some other compensation taken from this.

"Some private disturbances in the Royal Family here have occasioned two extraordinary publications of the government, of which I enclose you the copies. The fact is, that the prince of Asturias and the prince of Peace are sworn enemies, and of course one or the other must fall. With these unfortunate differences the whole country is kept in a state of suspence and alarm, which, however ridiculous it may appear to foreigners, gives a temporary suspension to every kind of business, and occasions the demands from the interior to be very limited."

Translated for the Mercantile Advertiser.

In a letter of the 6th inst. the Secretary of the public granary and government of the royal council wrote to his excellency the Corregidor of this city as follows:

"*Most excellent sir*,

"Under date of the 5th inst. his majesty sent to the council the following royal Decree:

"The voice of nature arrests the arm of vengeance; and where a son repents an inadvertant act, we cannot refuse to act as an affectionate father.—My son has already declared the authors of the horrible plan which they had caused him to enter upon, to be wretches; all which he has done in a proper manner, altogether consistent with that formality which the law requires in similar cases. His repentance and fear have dictated the representations which he has made to me, and which follow: "Royal Sire, I have erred. I have sinned against your majesty as a king and as a father. But I repent, and offer to your majesty the most implicit obedience. I ought to have done nothing without the knowledge of your majesty; but I was blinded. I have, however, discovered the culprits, and I beseech your majesty to forgive me, and permit me to approach your royal presence as your acknowledged son. FERNANDO.

"*San Lorenzo, Nov. 5th*, 1807."

"*Royal Mother*,

I repent myself of the horrid crime I have committed against my royal father, and with the greatest humility supplicate your majesty's pardon for it; likewise for my gross obstinacy in denying the truth a few nights since; and now, from the bottom of my heart, I beseech your majesty to deign to intercede with my father, that he will permit me to approach him as his forgiven son.

FERNANDO.

San Lorenzo, Nov. 5th, 1807.

"In consequence of these, and of the entreaties of the Queen, my beloved spouse, I pardon my son, and will restore him unto favor when his conduct shall prove that he has undergone a thorough reform. And I hereby command those Judges, who have been acquainted with the business from the commencement, to act according to the sentence of the law, according to the atrocity of the crimes and the quality of the criminals, taking as a guide for the formation of the charges the answers of the Prince which are drawn up and signed in his own hand writing, as well as the papers found in his desk, also written by him.

"All this you are to communicate to my councils and tribunals; publishing it to my people, that they may behold my mercy and justice, and that it may alleviate the affliction and uneasiness into which they were thrown by my former decree; since in it they beheld the danger of their sovereign, who reciprocates their affection by loving them as children.

San Lorenzo, Nov. 5th, 1807.

"*To the Governor of the Council.*"

The foregoing decree, published in full this day, I have fulfilled, and communicate it to your Excellency, in order that you may circulate it immediately among all the Judges within your jurisdiction, for the purposes which are expressed therein; and please advise me of having complied with it.

This is sent to your Excellency for your Government.

God preserve your Excellency many years.

DON JOSEPH MONTEMAYOR.

Cadiz, Nov. 13th, 1807.

THE services of a likely NEGRO BOY, turning 15 years of age, who has been accustomed to wait in the House, may be obtained for 6, 9, or 12 months, for the use of 135 dollars the same time, and the return of the money on the time fixed on will be secured. For particulars enquire of the Editor hereof.

January 26—3t

This is to give Notice,

THAT the subscriber hath obtained from the Orphans Court of Montgomery county in Maryland letters of Administration on the personal estate of Hilary L. Fisher, late of said county deceased—all persons having claims against the said deceased are hereby warned to exhibit the same with the vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at or before the 1st day of August next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given from under my hand and seal this 22nd day of January eighteen hundred and eight.

ARTAXERXES FISHER,
Administrator of Hilliary L. Fisher.

January 25—3t