from the militia is generally admitted to be political conduct. If this are, they could inform the public what are our enemies to the field of battle—and there would be not poor defenders of their country, who declared to the contrary, to be utterly incapable of defence.

We are pleased by the gentleman's advice, why we have acquiesced so differently, in the case of other recent transgressions, we do not now give a pledge as the nature of the offence is, whether it is some limited period, and recent to some other occasion we have participated before us. This is perhaps a reasonable question, and I feel that it is proper to be fairly answering it. It is probably considered that I have never spoke or declared the House an opinion that in the present circumstances of the country it was the duty of the Government to be open to defence, perhaps beyond which in whatever to our respective parties it may be unpopularly, we think that we have moved at the time that the resolution for extending the embargo for 90 days had been moved in the sequel of the session by a political friend. Nevertheless, he referred to the committee of the House who had under consideration the subject of a non-intercourse with G. Britain and France, and he knew that it might be considered in connection with that, or some other measure as a substitute upon its merits. In that motion he voted, I and with his Independent principles in the House I would profess to decide that the proposition for limiting the continuance of our present embargo should come from the other quarter—but I'll should not, I shall feel to be wanting in efficacy if it is not done, and placing the place of it on my own motion, and I think if there were other considerations in favor of such a measure, it is a proper time to be the feelings of the portion of our citizens who by such adversses to the country and the Legislature, dices in our yesterday heard from my colleague have been induced to believe, that this was a system of personal exclusion from the country, or a premeditated abandonment of commercial enterprise, and who acting under that popular delusion so by the effects of our commercial previous, and declining leaders, be led into acts of insubordination, and of a nature to crimes, within under the influence of current information they would deprecate and abhorr. Sir, I feel it is more especially the province of my colleague to endeavor to actually open and heal the blind of such of our fellow citizens may be in such measure was so, and it is a duty to do what lies in my power to minister to the relief. In the declaration of this desirable object, I have reason to believe that a large majority of the Representative, and having done that I will consent to do no more. Let the Crisis (albeit of the gentleman where he will it is only) do most it; let the consequences rest upon those who have misapprehensions and intelligence it has been pressed and encouraged.

(Debate to be Continued.)

FRIDAY, JAN. 27.

MR. TIMPEY presented a petition from sundry inhabitants of the county of Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, praying for a repeal of the embargo and war against Great Britain.

DEFENSIVE MARITIME WAR.

MR. JACKSON said, that he was particularly impressed by a consideration of the sentiments contained in the memorial which had just been read to offer to the House a resolution touching the subject of our maritime rights, and the mode in which he believed the nation to vindicate their exercise against belligerent aggressions. He had been much pleased that a gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Nicholas) had already laid upon the table a resolution proposing a speedy limitation of the embargo laws, coupled with a general declaration of our determination to resume, maintain, and vindicate our rights to the free navigation of the ocean. That resolution was the proper altogether general and unpacific, as to the manner in which this right should be vindicated, or the means by which it should be maintained. It was probably, purposely, and undoubtedly very properly proposed, as it has gone general shape, with a view of inducing the offer of such specific propositions as might suggest themselves to gentlemen having in view the same general object. He apprehended, however, that when the committee should have committee on that resolution, it would be found difficult to make it the object of distinct and intelligible discussion, since it pointed to no definite means, by which such rights were to be maintained, or our navigation defended from violence. He had hoped that some other resolution, which, before this, have presented some distinct proposition of this sort to the House, and had written, some days this such an expectation. Having, however, been disappointed in this, he could no longer refrain from the exercise of a duty, which he rose with great diffidence to discharge. The resolution which he intended to submit, was in no means in discordance with that of the gentleman from Virginia. It was merely a specification of some of those of the means by which the general object of that gentleman might perhaps be effected. And in offering it he wished not to be understood as definitely pledged to the particular course which the resolution points to. So far from being pertinaciously wedded to it, he was ready to give it an unbiased attention to any other project which other gentlemen may see fit to propose. That there are great difficulties to be encountered in the view which can be taken of our present situation is sufficiently obvious, and it is therefore with more than ordinary diffidence that I venture to lay before the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That provision ought to be made by law, from and after the day of next, for authorizing the commanders and crews of merchant vessels of the United States, armed wholly by a citizen or citizens thereof, to oppose any defensive against any tyrannic, tyrant or seizure, which shall be attempted upon such vessel, or upon any other vessel armed as aforesaid, by the commander or crew of any armed vessel sailing under French or British colours, or any other flag, pretending to act, by or under the authority of the French or British governments; and that in case any such vessel or vessels shall be made or committed on the part of such French or British vessel, or vessels, such attempt—and to subdue and capture the same, and to retake any vessel owned as aforesaid, which may have been captured by any vessel sailing under French or British colours, or any other, or pretending to act, by or under authority from the French or British governments.

In addition to the general observations made before he offered the resolution, Mr. Jackson said, he was particularly remarks, that as to the general principle which it contained, he presumed that it would by no one be mistaken, for submission to the belligerent claims which had been levelled against our rights, and which had authorised resistance against their aggressions in the most direct and unqualified manner. He presumed that it was sure. He felt no hesitation in saying that it was defensive and consistent with the principles of our Government, and of our ancestors and our ancient rights. He felt perfectly at ease in the present liberty to act as they plead, and might make such election in the consequences which, he thought, would ensue that state of things which might grow out of it. We claimed the right to navigate the seas, the seas of our rights, and it they sin chose to interrupt us in its on them be the consequences. He felt no apprehensions should, he thought, be for this nation here for so.

To the general nature of the resolution, Mr. B. said he there could be, as he apprehended, but one objection, which he may plausible. It is that it authorised resistance to any search whatever, by the cruisers of the two great belligerents. It is, I to be sure, an acknowledged principle of the general law of nations, that of the search, which we have submit to search by the cruisers of belligerents in peace, for the purposes, for instance, to examine whether the neutral had on board articles contraband of war, to prevent the carrying a port actually invested, &c. And so long as belligerents acted in conformity with the established principles and practices of visitation and search within these acknowledged limits, neutrals were to be unquestionably bound to submit to it. But when the former claimed to extend this right of search beyond its ancient limits and through it to enforce claims, totally unknown to the law of nations, and to interrupt and disturb the sovereignty of neutral states, it might be very questionable whether the ancient right should, in the first instance, and whether it could be at all consistent with the safety of the neutral to suffer it to be. But in the actual state of things in relation to American rights in the ocean, and towards Britain Great Britain or France even pretend that their extensive searches and seizures of our vessels are authorised by the law of nations, it is avowed to be a mere system of vindictive retaliation upon neutral rights. And shall they pretend to hold us to a punctilious observance of all the ceremonial forms, which they have both habitually disregard, and avowedly set at defiance as it respects us? Shall they claim the right of thus to say as France did to us some years since, and we may say it with much more force, that we can lawfully pillage a real disadvantage." And we might almost be justified in assuming to ourselves the same powers the power which one of them professes to have assumed towards the other, and to seize, forcibly and by force against us, which also set at defiance all principles of national rights and to go all lengths of violence and war. We can be done but to forget them for us in that one self." Mr. B. said, that he could not hold himself exclusively bound to this particular course; but as he thought that it was fairly one of some, as a step to be pursued, he offered the resolution to be considered, by the House, and the committee of the committee of the whole, who had under consideration the resolution for extending the embargo and resuming the navigation of the ocean.

MR. DANA said he acknowledged that this resolution did not have his submission. He rejoiced that the gentleman from Massachusetts and Pennsylvania had so much more than looked something like advancing, like men of business. He did not, he said, have any very great hopes for this proposition; but it was one which would not terminate in words, or in "retirement." When they came to examine this subject, it would be found perhaps that they approached question of peculiar character; that it might be difficult to draw a line of distinction between a state of possession of a right, and a state of war. The enemy at all points and *differens* our—a state in which we seek security for the future, without endeavoring to compel indemnity for the past. Perhaps (said he) when we approach the subject more closely, it may be proper to make a discrimination on this subject, which has very generally been kept out of sight in the course of our discussions, viz. between a state of war, and a state of defence. It is strictly *defensive*, and a war in which it is *indefence*. I will not at this time enter into a discussion of the subject of the resolution; but I rose to express my satisfaction and make a declaration of my hope, that a gentleman for the proposition, which seems to contemplate beginning a course of vigorous defence.

The resolution was referred to the committee of the whole, which to whom was referred Mr. Nicholas's resolution.

An expressed bill to revive and continue in force for a further time the authority of the commissioners of Kentucky, was read a third time and PASSED.

FORTIFICATIONS.

The engrossed bill for making appropriations to complete the fortifications of our sea port towns and harbors, was read a third time and passed, without a division.

NAVAL ESTABLISHMENT.

The engrossed bill requiring the President of the United States to offer, by, may, to the commanders of the naval force of the United States, was read a third time; and the question shall this bill pass?" was decided in the

YEAS & NAYS—YEAS 103—Nays 23.

THOSE who voted in the affirmative, are as follows, it received three cheers, and was PASSED without opposition.

VOLUNTEER FORCE.

The engrossed bill for authorizing the President of the United States to employ additional military force, was read a third time; and "the question shall this bill pass?"

MR. ELEMANDS opposed it in a speech of an hour and a half.

MR. LOWE followed on the same side in a speech of an hour. [Debate hereafter.]

When the House adjourned until to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

Saturday, Jan. 28.

A bill from the Senate for the relief of certain Revolutionary Officers was twice read and referred to the committee on Public Lands.

A bill to amend the act on the subject of the bill, *Mr. Wharton* moved that it now be read a third time. The bill was read a third time and passed without opposition.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The House resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday.

Mr. Taylor spoke for an hour in favor of the bill; and *Mr. Pitkin* for about half an hour in opposition.

When the House adjourned without taking a question.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30.

Per Gen. Pinkney's Speech on Foreign Relations, see the last page.

The following are the resolutions agreed upon at the Meeting held at Philadelphia on the 24th inst. On the motion of Mr. Hopkins, in the President of the U. S. was informed of the Resolution, in our next.

"Resolved, Great Britain and France in their fury to destroy each other, have made a hideous monster of the ocean, rage and the law of nations, and by their unrestrained depredations, threaten the commerce of neutral nations, and greatly endanger our safety.

And whereas, the government of the United States, in order to preserve peace, and to secure their to preserve peace and to secure a freedom with all nations, by mutual and unrestrained intercourse, have adopted and accordingly, and also by a wise and patriot conduct, have kept the nation out of the hostilities, and preserve the honor, and the rights of the nation, and the name of a Foreign government, and whereas, by a government of the people, who, by their writings and speeches, and their meetings, are zealous in doing our rights and commerce, and free from government, and to stop all illegal and violent depredations, and to do good citizens, to rally round their government, and to give the government the support its laws, and to preserve their and their rights, and to preserve the United States. Therefore, be it resolved by the citizens of the city and Philadelphia, in general town meeting assembled, and in the city of Philadelphia.

Resolved, That these United States are and of right ought to be, free and independent states—that we will pay without the defence, rather than one foot for tribute—and that we consider the claim of independence so boldly announced by our public functionaries, to be the property of our treasury, but our hearts are behind.

Resolved, That the resolution of the House of Representatives, and the Senate of the United States, and the President of the United States, in the present state of affairs,