

subjects or government of either of the contracting parties. It, however, it should happen that any such vessels should come into their ports, forced either by stress of weather or the dangers of the sea, all proper means shall be vigorously employed to oblige them to depart from thence, and to withdraw themselves as speedily as possible." (Seventeenth article of the treaty of Paris of 1778.)

This last clause was evidently, between America and France, a sort of privilege, by which every other nation was excluded. It was, indeed, the only distinguishing feature of the treaty which denoted the good will of the Americans towards the French. Why, and how did the two nations then avail themselves of this exclusive privilege? It was, as has been said, at a time when America was resolved to make constantly a common cause with the French, and considered that the English could not be kept at too great a distance from her coast.—It may be perceived, that this article must have greatly embarrassed the American Ambassador. Lord Grenville required that England should be treated as the most favored nation: a little finess got the better of this embarrassment. The above article, accordingly, of the treaty of 1778, was copied, nearly word for word, in the treaty of 1794. Thus, on the one hand, the French are constantly in possession of EXCLUSIVE privilege, the EXCLUSIVE possession of which England acquires. We cannot fail to admire this subtlety!

Mr. Jay, apparently apprehensive of the clamours which would naturally be excited by so formal an infraction of the treaty of Paris, took care to introduce into that of London a restriction which it would not be amiss to quote:

"Nothing herein contained shall be either interpreted, or shall operate in a manner contrary to public Treaties, ancient or existing, with other Sovereigns or States. And the two contracting parties agree, that in future, there shall not be formed by either of them, any treaty which shall not be compatible with the present article."

Can a more scandalous and wretched quibble be found any where? Is not this modification, with which, however, the Americans appeared to be satisfied, absurd in the extreme? How can such a clause be reconciled with the other two articles?—If the English, coming with a French prize into an American port, are received in that port, the treaty of 1798 is infringed; if they are not received, the treaty of 1794 is infringed.

The stipulations contained in the articles which have been precedingly analyzed, might, at least, not have depended altogether on the will and act of the United States: but this one is on their side, a formal, free and voluntary concession. Whatever subtleties may be employed to cover this want of good faith, it is not less certain, that after having subscribed the article of the first treaty, the Americans could not, without a palpable violation of it, subscribe the second.

From these facts it appears to be a matter of surprize that a Legislator of France should enter into a formal defence of the treaty of 1794. It is essential that these notions, reduced to simple terms, should be established, to the end that the conduct which the French government ought to observe at this time towards the American negociators should be appreciated.

BOSTON, January 12.

Capt. Nutting, in the ship Union, arrived this morning, in 16 days from Rotterdam, informs—That he received a letter just before he sailed from Mr. Gerry, one of our Commissioners Extra. to France, which mentioned that they had been politely received by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, but that they would not be received by the French Government!

[Mr. Gerry went to Europe in the above ship.]

From France.

So various are the reports and opinions in circulation respecting the reception, &c. of our envoys extra. to France, that we cannot but say with Shakspear—

"Rumor is a pipe,
Blown by surmises, jealousies, conjectures,
And of so easy and so plain a step,
That the blunt monster with uncounted head
Can play upon it."

CONGRESS.

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES.

Tuesday, Jan. 1.

Mr. Seawell, from the committee appointed to take into consideration that part of the President's speech which relates to the protection of commerce and the defence of the country made a further report. The committee states, that further appropriations are necessary for the completion of the frigates, for an account of which they refer to the documents from the respective departments which accompany their report. They also state that only two of the revenue cutters are fit to be armed and equipped in the manner directed by Congress, viz. one on the Virginia station, and one in the Delaware; that the former only had been armed for want of being able to procure the necessary cannon. The committee report four resolutions for the adoption of the house.

The first for the sum of dollars for completing and equipping for sea the three frigates.

The second for the sum of dollars, for the pay and subsistence for the term of one year, of the officers and crew on board the said frigates, and dollars for ammunition, &c.

The third, to authorize the President to procure whenever, in this opinion, the situation of the country shall require it, not exceeding vessels, suitable to be employed for the protection of our sea coasts, and to cause the same to be armed and equipped on the same terms as are directed for the naval armament, and that there be appropriated not exceeding dollars for the purpose.

The fourth proposes to authorize the President to establish, in the same eligible situation, a Foundry, to be employed in casting of cannon for the use of government, and that dollars be appropriated for purchasing a necessary building and materials, and to defray other expenses attending the establishment.

The documents from the War Department accompanying this report, agree with the estimates produced the other day, when the subject of an appropriation for the frigates was under consideration, as far as they relate to the finishing of the frigates, except that the balance remaining unexpended of the last appropriation, then stated at 35,454 dollars. This difference reduces the estimate to 115,833 dollars. In addition to this sum, there is also an estimate for the pay and subsistence of the officers and crew for a year, &c. which brings the total sum wanted to 390,212 dollars.

This report was committed for Monday next. Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 17

A message was received from the President as follows:

Gentlemen of the Senate and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives,

The situation of affairs between the United States and the Cherokee Indians having evinced the expediency of a treaty with that nation, for the promotion of justice to them as well as of the interests and convenience of our citizens, I have nominated, and by and with the consent of the Senate, appointed commissioners to hold conferences, and conclude a treaty, as early as the season of the year, and the convenience of the parties will admit.

As we know very well, by experience, that such negotiations cannot be carried on, without considerable expences, I recommend to your consideration, the propriety of making an appropriation, at this time, for defraying such as may be necessary for holding and concluding a treaty.

That you may form your judgments with greater facility, I shall direct the proper officer to lay before you, an estimate of such articles and expences as may be thought indispensable.

(Signed) JOHN ADAMS.

United States, January 17, 1798.

The message was referred without division, to the committee of the whole on the Tennessee business.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 9.

Mr. Wm. Margee, who arrived from Canton in the ship Grand Turk, came to town since our last. He informs, that on their homeward bound passage, in the Straits of Banca, they spoke the Ship Eliza, of this port, late commander capt. Wm. Page. Capt. Carr (the commander) informed him that on the 17th of April last, in the Straits of Java, they discovered a prow with Malays on board; supposing her a trading vessel, the Capt. dispatched a boat to her, on which she came along side. The Linguist asked if they were Traders; they answered in the affirmative, upon which he, with the Capt. Thomas Page, and another Seaman, went on board. Capt. Page, observing nine Weapons, requested the Malay Chief to give him one, which

he did, on seeing some others of a more curious shorkmanship, he asked for one of them; on his stooping to examine them, a Malay thrust a knife into his body. Capt. Carr on receiving the wound sprang for his own vessel, but fell between her and the Prow into the water, the Mate, with considerable exertion got him in the cabin-window, he lived about 40 minutes. On the captain's being wounded, the action began general. Thomas Page and the Linguist were killed on board the Prow, the Malay Chief and 10 of his crew killed, and in about half an hour they were beat off. Few men have been more beloved than capt. Page; his amiable manners were peculiarly calculated to secure general esteem, and all who knew him bear testimony to his worth. To the public his loss is great, but to his family and more immediate connections it is irreparable.

NEW-YORK Jan. 13.

We are informed that a gentleman who came passenger in the Jay, and left London on the 12th Nov. (says the commercial Advertiser) that on the day of his departure, he saw a gentleman that had left Paris on the 3d. who informed him that he had seen and conversed with Mr. Pinckney who gave him to understand that he was preparing to return to Holland, where he should wait for further instructions from the American Executive.

January 16.

Captain Williams, of the Nymph, from Havre, gives us the same information, respecting the probability of an embargo on American vessels, as capt. Tybee gave; adding a report that all Americans would soon be arrested, as they had already begun in Paris to take them up and confine them in the Temple—and that it was also reported as he left the quay, the Hotel de Boston at Paris, was surrounded with a guard, to see that none made their escape from thence!

PHILADELPHIA, January 19.

The secretary of state yesterday received a letter from Mr. Murray, our minister at the Hague, inclosing a letter received by him from Gen. Marshall, dated the 21st October, stating that the French government had not at that time recognized the American commissioners, and that they expected that they would shortly be obliged to quit the republic.

Yesterday in the senate of the United States, upon a motion for leave to bring a bill to repeal the law laying a duty on stamped vellum, &c. made by Mr. Greene, a member from Rhode-Island, in pursuance of instructions from that state—the yeas & nays were as follow:

Yeas—Messrs. Anderson, Bloodworth, Brown, Foster, Greene, Jackson, Langdon, Livermore, Martin, Mason, Tazewell—11.

Nays—Messrs. Bingham, Chipman, Goodhue, Gunn, Hillhouse, Howard, Hunter, Latimer, Lloyd, Marshall, Payne, Read, Ruts, Sedgwick, Tracy—15.

In the senate of the United States, on the 17th instant, the following motion was made:

"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to enquire whether any and what territory lying to the southward and westward of the state of Georgia, belongs to the United States, and to report a plan for governing the same, and that the said committee be empowered to report by bill or otherwise."

WILMINGTON, February 8.

The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, has appointed Fisher Ames, Bushrod Washington, and Alfred Moore, Esquires, commissioners for holding a treaty with the Cherokee Indians, for the extinguishment of the Indian titles to certain lands in the state of Tennessee.

From a London paper of Oct. 26.

The Redacteur of the 19th inst. which reached us yesterday, contains a long investigation of the nature of the dispute between the French republic and the United States. From this paper it appears, that the grand object of complaint urged by the French government is, the treaty of commerce between this country and America negotiated in 1794. From the decided language which it speaks on points that are immediately to become the subject of diplomatic investigation, it may be inferred that the Americans must make great concessions before they can appease the French government. The event of this dispute must be of serious importance to this country, because the concession demanded from the Americans must be a

renunciation of the principles of the treaty of 1794 and, in proportion as the demands of the French are admitted, the privileges of Great-Britain must be sacrificed.

Port of Wilmington.

ENTERED

Schooner Jenner, Low, Cherleston.
Betsey, M'Ilhenny, do.
William, Burr, Port de Paix.

CLEARED

Sch'r Eliza, Cross, St. Croix.
Phebe, Terry, Newbern.
Mary & Hellen, Broward, L. River.
Americana, Bell, New-York.
Nabby, Miller, Surinam.
Brig Bolly, Bullock, Barbadoes.
Fair, Turner, New-Province.
Sloop Rosanna, Crocker, Curacoa.

On the 2d ult. Capt. M'Ilhenny spoke a ship from Newbury Port, bound to Charleston, 19 days out—on her passage took Capt. Pride and 4 men off the wreck of the sloop Margaret of New-Port, bound from Edenton, N. C. to New-Port, R. I.

Extract from a pamphlet written by the famous Dr. John Vaughan, entitled "Observations on Animal Electricity, &c."

"There are few discoveries in the healing art but what meet with tumultuous opposition, from the congregated legions of prejudice, ignorance & ambition. Some nominal philopliers disbelieve every proposition that does not accord with the infallible doctrines of their immaculate ancestors; and others are so extremely illiberal, as to discard every new principle in which they can have no claim to interest. A glaring example of the latter we have, in the degrading denunciations of the English philopliers, when the illustrious Dr. Franklin's discovery of the identity of Lightning and Electricity was first delivered to the world. A second, no less true, we have in the discovery of Dr. Perkins' Metallic Operation, which will like the former arise triumphant amidst the counter, but futile vociferation of prejudice and ignorance. Some reject the latter, because they were not the inventors. Others question the testimony of their senses, because they cannot explain the modus operandi thereof, by referring it to the good old doctrines of Van Helmont, Doleus, or Stahl. Yet the happy day is perhaps not far distant, when envy must fall a sacrifice to truth, and behold this problem accounted for, on a native law of the animal oeconomy."

Doctor Perkins, inventor of

the Metallic Points or Tractors, has taken lodgings for a few days at Dorsey's Hotel, where he will be happy to operate for the relief of the afflicted, to give an opportunity to those who wish it, for the most satisfactory evidence of their efficacy that the nature of the case will admit.

He has the Instruments with the necessary instructions for sale.

Wilmington, Feb. 8.

Public Auction.

On WEDNESDAY the 14th instant, Will be Sold, on the spot.

THE Lot with improvements thereon, in Nutt's alley, occupied by Mr. Crevillier. The house has lately had some improvements, as also the bake-house with a large new oven. As the same is now rented to the said Mr. Crevillier, actual possession cannot be immediately given; but the purchaser will be entitled to the rent from the day of sale. Terms one half to be paid down in cash, the other in six months, with bond and approved security.

William Nutt.

Wilmington, Feb. 5.

FOR SALE,

At the Printing-Office, Wilmington, Superfine Letter Paper, Common do. and Writing do. by the ream or quire.

Wafers, Quills.
Blank Books of different sizes.
A few copies of the Duties payable by law on all Goods, Wares and Merchandize, imported into the United States, after the last day of June, 1797.
And a general assortment of Blanks.
February 8.

ALMANACKS for the Year 1798, Sold at the Printing Office, price 12 1-2 cents.
January 11.