

WASHINGTON CITY, Oct. 17.

The house of representatives have taken off the injunction of secrecy respecting the following proceedings of the late session, and ordered them to be printed.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES.

Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1823. Ordered, that the journal of the whole house, to which was yesterday committed a motion in words following, to wit:

Resolved, That a sum of two millions of dollars, in addition to the provision heretofore made, be appropriated to defray any expenses which may be incurred in relation to the intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, to be paid out of any money that may be in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States, who, if necessary, is hereby authorized to borrow the whole or any part thereof; an account whereof, as soon as may be, shall be laid before congress, to be discharged from the consideration thereof; and that the said motion be referred to Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Foster, Mr. Bayard, Mr. Dickson, Mr. Lowndes, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Gerry, that they do examine the matter thereof, and report the same with their opinion thereupon, to the house.

The committee to whom was referred a resolution proposing an appropriation of two millions of dollars, in addition to the sum usually appropriated for the purposes of intercourse between the United States and foreign nations, submit the following

REPORT

The object of this resolution is to enable the executive to commence, with more effect, a negotiation with the French and Spanish governments relative to the purchase from them of the island of New Orleans, and the provinces of East and West Florida. This object is deemed highly important. It has received the attentive consideration of the committee. The free and unobstructed navigation of the river Mississippi, is a point to which the attention of the general government has been directed ever since the peace of 1763, by which our independence as a nation was finally acknowledged. The immense tract of country owned by the United States, which lies immediately on the Mississippi, or communicates with it by means of large navigable rivers rising within our boundaries, renders its free navigation an object, not only of inestimable advantage, but of the very first necessity. The Mississippi forms the western boundary of the United States from its source to the Gulf of Mexico about the 31st degree of north latitude. It furnishes the only outlet through which the produce of the Indiana territory, of the states of Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee, and of the western parts of Pennsylvania and the western part of Virginia, and a portion of the Mississippi territory can be transported to the foreign market or to the ports of the Atlantic states. From the 31st degree of north latitude, which is the southern boundary of the U. States, it ascends for several hundred miles to the mouth of the river, the territory on each side has heretofore been in the possession of the Spanish government, and those of East Florida, with the island of New Orleans, to the west, and those of West Florida, with the island of New Orleans, to the east. Although the United States have insisted, on an inalienable right to pass up and down the river, from its source to the sea, yet this right has not been admitted in its most ample latitude will not secure to them the full advantages of navigation. The interest of its government to promote strength and prosperity of the current of the Mississippi are known to render its ascent extremely difficult, that this having been the policy of those few vessels of burden have attempted to go as far as our boundary. This circumstance obliges the citizens of the western country to carry their produce down the river in boats, from which it is put on board of ships capable of sustaining a sea voyage. It follows, therefore, that to enjoy the full benefits of navigation, some place should be fixed where sea vessels can approach without great inconvenience, where the American produce may be deposited until it is again shipped to be carried abroad. This great point was secured to us in the year 1763 by the Spanish government, who agreed in the treaty of San Lorenzo de Real that Americans should have the right of deposit at New Orleans. This right has been used from that time on wards; but the conduct of the Spanish government, who have how liable the advantageous navigation of the river is to interruption, and strongly points out the impolicy of relying on a foreign nation for bene-

fits which our citizens have a right to expect should be secured to them by their own government. It is hoped that the port of New Orleans may again be opened, before any very material injuries arise; but should this be the case, or if as the treaty provides, a new place of deposit should be assigned, the late occurrence shows the uncertainty of its continuance. Experience proves that the caprice or the interested views of a single officer, may perpetually subject us to the alternative of submitting to injury, or of resorting to war. The late violation of our treaty with Spain necessarily leads to the enquiry how far the western country may be affected in other points, not connected with New Orleans. The Mississippi territory extends from the 31st degree of north latitude to the 35th degree of north latitude. It is estimated to contain more than fifty millions of acres, and from its numerous advantages must one day or other possess an immense population. The variety, richness and abundance of its productions, hold out to settlers the strongest inducements to resort thither, and the United States may safely calculate on drawing a considerable revenue from the sale of lands in this, as well as in other quarters of the western country. The value of these however, may be diminished or increased, and the sale impeded or advanced by the impression made on the public mind, by shutting the port of New Orleans, and by eventual measures which may be adopted to guard against similar injuries. West Florida is bounded on the north by the Mississippi territory, from which it is separated by no natural boundary, on the east by the river Apalachicola, which divides it from East Florida; on the west by the river Mississippi, and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi territory is intersected by many large & valuable rivers which rise within its own boundaries, and meander through it in a general direction from north to south, but empty themselves into the Gulf of Mexico thro' the province of West Florida. In fact, with the exception of that part of the territory which lies immediately on the Mississippi, the whole must depend on the Mobile and the Apalachicola, with their numerous branches, and on some other rivers of inferior note, for the means of sending its produce to market, and of returning to itself such foreign supplies, as the necessities or convenience of its inhabitants may require. In these rivers on the eastern parts of the state, as some of the great branches of the Mobile approach very near to some of these branches of the Tennessee river, which lie above the great Muscle shoals. Even if it should prove difficult to connect them, yet the land carriage will be shorter, and the route to the sea more direct, than the river Tennessee furnishes. These rivers possess likewise an advantage, which is denied to the Mississippi. As their sources are not in the mountains, and their course is through a level country, their currents are gentle and the tide flows considerably above our boundary. This circumstance renders them accessible to sea-vessels; great numbers of large tonnage vessels, and ships of two hundred tons burthen, may ascend for several hundred miles into the heart of the Mississippi territory. These rivers, however, which run almost exclusively within our own limits, and which west and those of East Florida, with the island of New Orleans, to the west, and those of West Florida, with the island of New Orleans, to the east. Although the United States have insisted, on an inalienable right to pass up and down the river, from its source to the sea, yet this right has not been admitted in its most ample latitude will not secure to them the full advantages of navigation. The interest of its government to promote strength and prosperity of the current of the Mississippi are known to render its ascent extremely difficult, that this having been the policy of those few vessels of burden have attempted to go as far as our boundary. This circumstance obliges the citizens of the western country to carry their produce down the river in boats, from which it is put on board of ships capable of sustaining a sea voyage. It follows, therefore, that to enjoy the full benefits of navigation, some place should be fixed where sea vessels can approach without great inconvenience, where the American produce may be deposited until it is again shipped to be carried abroad. This great point was secured to us in the year 1763 by the Spanish government, who agreed in the treaty of San Lorenzo de Real that Americans should have the right of deposit at New Orleans. This right has been used from that time on wards; but the conduct of the Spanish government, who have how liable the advantageous navigation of the river is to interruption, and strongly points out the impolicy of relying on a foreign nation for bene-

harbors. The southern point, Cape Florida, is not more than one hundred miles distant from the Havana, and the possession of it may be beneficial to us in relation to our trade with the West Indies. It would likewise make our whole territory compact, would add considerably to our sea coast, and by giving us the gulph of Mexico for our southern boundary, would render us less liable to attack, in what is now deemed the most vulnerable part of the Union. From the foregoing view of facts it must be seen that the possession of New Orleans and the Floridas will not only be required for the convenience of the United States, but will be demanded by their most imperious necessities. The Mississippi and its branches, with those other rivers above referred to, drain an extent of country not less perhaps than one half of our whole territory, containing at this time one eighth of our population, and progressing with a rapidity beyond the experience of any former time, or of any other nation. The Floridas and New Orleans, command the only outlets to the sea, and our best interests require that we should get possession of them. This acquisition however arises, not from a disposition to increase our territory; for neither the Floridas nor New Orleans offer any other inducements than their more geographical relation to the United States. But if we look forward to the free use of the Mississippi, the Mobile, the Apalachicola and the other rivers of the west, by ourselves and our posterity, New Orleans and the Floridas must become part of the United States either by purchase or by conquest. The great question then which presents itself, shall we at this time lay the foundation for future peace, by offering a fair and equivalent consideration; or shall we hereafter incur the hazards and the horrors of war? The government of the United States is differently organized from any other in the world. Its object is the happiness of man; its policy and its interest, to pursue right by right means. War is the great scourge of the human race, and should never be resorted to but in cases of the most imperious necessity. A wise government will avoid it, when its views can be attained by peaceful measures. Princes fight for glory, and the blood and treasure of their subjects is the price they pay. In all nations the people bear the burthen of war, and in the United States, the people rule. Their representatives are the guardians of their rights, and it is the duty of those representatives to provide against any event, which may, even at a distant day, involve the interests and the happiness of the nation. We may indeed have our rights restored to us by treaty, but there is a want of fortitude in applying temporary remedies to permanent evils; thereby imposing on our posterity a burthen which we ourselves ought to bear. If the purchase can be made, we ought not to hesitate. If the attempt should fail, we shall have discharged an important duty. War may be the result; but the American nation, satisfied with our conduct, will be animated by one soul, and will unite all its energies in the contest. Foreign powers will be convinced that it is not a war of aggrandizement on our part, and will therefore feel no unreasonable jealousy towards us. We shall have provided that our object was justice; it will be seen that our propositions were fair; and it will be acknowledged that our cause is honorable. Should alliances be necessary they may be advantageously formed. We shall have merited and shall therefore possess general confidence. Our measures will stand justified not only to ourselves and our country, but to the world. In another point of view perhaps, it would be preferable to make the purchase, as it is believed that a smaller sum would be required for this object than would necessarily be expended if we should attempt to take possession by force; the expenses of a war being indeed almost incalculable. The committee have no information before them, to ascertain the amount for which the purchase can be made, but it is hoped, that with the assistance of two millions of dollars in hand, this will not be unreasonable. A similar course was pursued for the purpose of settling our differences with the regency of Algiers, by an appropriation of one million of dollars prior to the commencement of the negotiation, & we have since experienced its beneficial effects. Under these impressions therefore, the committee recommend the adoption of the resolution referred to them in the following words, viz. Resolved, That a sum of two millions of dollars in addition to the provision heretofore made, be appropriated to defray any expenses which may be incurred in relation to the intercourse between the United States and

money that may be in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, and to be applied under the direction of the President of the United States; who, if necessary, is hereby authorized to borrow the same or any part thereof, an account whereof, as soon as may be, shall be laid before congress. Commercial Important. The following has been addressed to the Editor of the Philadelphia True American, in answer to an opinion of J. A. Park, Esq. of Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, in the case of a discharge under the act of Bankruptcy of the United States. The opinion was as follows: "I am of opinion that the certificate which has been obtained in America, will operate as a bar to the demand of the British creditor; especially as he had an opportunity of benefiting with the rest of the creditors." J. A. PARK. Answer to the above. Mr. Bradford, The foregoing opinion coming from a character so eminently conspicuous for legal knowledge, especially that part of it which relates to commerce and mercantile transactions, will have considerable credit; and in some minds obtain complete faith. But it should be remembered that professional gentlemen, are sometimes led to give opinions, according to what the law in their opinion ought to be, and not according to what it is. Mr. Park has fallen into this error, or he has certainly forgotten that a decision has already been made in England, which is at complete variance with his opinion, and which is and must be the rule of action until reversed or overruled. The case of Smith vs. Buchanan, in East's Reports, p. 6, decided in November, 1800, is the one to which I allude. The facts were these: Buchanan had been discharged by the Insolvent Laws of Maryland, passed in 1787, which operate as a bankrupt Law, for the defendant is discharged from all debts, owing or contracted before the time of his discharge, except that any property afterwards acquired by descent, &c. should be liable to the payment of his debts. Buchanan was indebted to some merchants in England, who did not come in under the assignment in Maryland, nor in any way assent to the discharge, and who arrested Buchanan for the debt when he went to England. Buchanan produced his certificate of discharge, and pleaded it at length. The plaintiff demurred to the plea, and a solemn argument was made before Lord Kenyon, and other judges of the King's Bench. Judgment was rendered for the plaintiff, and the certificate held to be of no avail in that suit. I shall in a short time send you the whole case for the information of your readers. Important Intelligence. The editor of the Philadelphia Gazette of the 21st ultimo says—we are indebted to the friendship of a commercial gentleman for the following very interesting and important letter: From Cadix, August 17. The situation of our market has experienced very little change since our last, but the political situation of our country is very much altered indeed. When I wrote you last, the war with England was expected every instant; now we are given to understand, we are on the best terms with Great-Britain, and perhaps on the eve of hostility with France. This sudden change in the politics of the cabinet of Madrid arises from the conduct of Buonaparte towards Spain in the sale of Louisiana to the United States. It appears the cession of that province by Spain to France was under certain conditions, many of which have not been fulfilled, and others glaringly violated. A person of good information has assured me that renoutrances have been made to the First Consul upon this head, with a vigour and energy that was not expected from a government, generally supposed subservient to the will of France. And similar representations are to be made by our ministers in the United States to your government, as it is insisted, that by the non-fulfilment on the part of France of the conditions on which she was to have Louisiana, she has neither the right to possess it herself, nor to sell it to the United States.— This revolution in the European affairs may produce the most important consequences. Conjecture is afloat about the destination of the small fleet remaining here, of six-seventy-four

the certificate of discharge, which is the opinion of the British creditor, especially as he had an opportunity of benefiting with the rest of the creditors. Captain John Brown, of the Non-parail, from St. Petersburg, arrived at New-York, Spoke, in lat. 42, 72, off Montauk point, on the 2d of October, schooner Phoenix, Sloane, in 20 days from Martinique, who informed him of the capture of Demerara, Surinam, and Berbice, by the English forces. A letter was received on Saturday by a merchant in this city from his correspondent at New-Orleans, dated September 24th which says, "A Spanish schooner is just arrived here from Havana with orders to the governor not to give up the possession of Louisiana to either France or the United States; but wait for further instructions from the court of Spain." N. Y. paper. NORFOLK, Oct. 27. Yesterday the British ship Leander, captain Skeene, of 50 guns, anchored in Lynhaven Bay. A gentleman of respectability, who left Gibraltar on the 3d September, and who arrived here yesterday says that the Emperor of Morocco had declared war against the United States of America, and that an American vessel was captured by his cruisers, but providentially was recaptured by the United States frigate Philadelphia, captain Bainbridge, and carried into Gibraltar, where a copper bottomed schooner from this port had arrived bound to Malaga. CHARLESTON, October 31. The French armed schooner la Sophie, which arrived on Monday, from Cape Nichola Mole, is an advice boat with dispatches for the commercial agent of France in this city; she is commanded by lieutenant Secks, of the marine. She brings accounts that the English had bombarded Fort Dauphin and St. Marks, which places had been compelled to surrender to them, and the brigands, who aided in the reduction. City Gazette. Fifty Dollars Reward. RAN AWAY from the subscriber on the 5th of October a likely negro man named POLLADORE. He is about thirty-five years of age, of a yellow complexion, about five feet five or six inches high, stout made and well set—he has a large scar on one of his hands, I believe the left, between his thumb and fore finger, occasioned by the stroke of an axe; he has also scars of the like kind on one or both of his feet—he has a lump on his right arm a little above his wrist which he got hurt in fighting. THE above described Negro named POLLADORE is legally outlawed, and if he does not surrender himself and return home, then any person may kill and destroy the said slave, by such means as he or they may think fit, without accusation or impeachment of any crime or offence for so doing, and without incurring any penalty or forfeiture thereby: the above reward will be given for the said slave, in whatever situation he may be brought to me, or to secured that I shall get him. All masters of vessels and others are forbidden from harbouring, employing or carrying away said negro. EDWARD GRIFFITH. P. S. He has in all probability obtained a Pass, and may change his name; but whatever story he may tell, I hope it will make no difference if he answers the above description. E. G. Craven County, June 23, 1803—350 6w. } BLANKS OF ALL KINDS For sale at this Office.