

Had lately a kind of argument with a person, that could not well be settled without reference being had to the bible. One was accordingly produced from the bottom of a trunk, where it had been hid. I expressed my surprise at the circumstance of its having been secreted, and was told that all the priests who had lived among them before Father Pavia (the present one) had made it a practice to burn all the bibles they could find, telling the people they ought to know no more about religion, than what they (the priests) chose to tell them. That though Father Pavia had not destroyed any bibles since his residence among them, they were suspicious that he would not always continue to shew them such lenity in this respect. But that in fact his predecessors had made such havoc among the bibles, there were but few left in the country.

There is a family, by the name of Messier, now living in the village of Natchitoches, consisting of three brothers and two sisters, with whom I am well acquainted, having been frequently called to visit all of them in a medical capacity. Their father was formerly Governor here, and afterwards Governor of St. Antoine, where he died; their mother was a daughter of the Duke of Orleans, of the royal blood of France, which has prevented any of the present family from marrying. They are all strong republicans, and are highly pleased with the cession of Louisiana to the United States. They draw an annuity from their mother's family estate in France.

The two sisters conduct with great propriety, are esteemed and respected for their virtues, and are good christians. The eldest brother is a man of real worth, strict in his morals, and very independent in his circumstances. The two younger brothers are somewhat slighty; one of them has been banished from Louisiana on account of his republican principles, but has got back again.

I could add many more remarks concerning this truly fine country; but I have already too far exceeded the limits of a letter. Owing to the very hasty manner in which this sketch was drawn up, I am aware that there are probably many errors in it, as relates to grammatical diction, &c. but with respect to the substance of it, I believe it is perfectly correct.

I have from the best materials and information I could obtain, sketched a map of the southern part of Louisiana, and the country to the westward of it, as far as the river Grand; which I believe may have some pretensions to accuracy.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN SIBLEY.

Mr. Joseph Gales.
The map here referred to did not come to J. Gales's hand with the copy of this letter, which he received from the Doctor's Son, residing at Fayetteville, (to whom it was inclosed) on the 11th instant. Not doubting that the information which this letter contains will prove acceptable to the public, and be particularly gratifying to the Doctor's numerous friends, and to shew a willingness to comply with his wish in this respect, J. Gales gives it immediate publicity.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, Nov. 7.

Private accounts received from Dublin of the 31st ult. and 1st inst. communicate some very serious articles of intelligence with respect to the discovery of a fresh conspiracy at Wexford. One of these accounts says, "I have seen this day a letter from the town of Wexford, stating the discovery of a most atrocious plot, and the arrest of the principal conspirators. Their intention appears to have been to murder all the loyalists of the town at a given signal, and to have revived all the atrocities of Scullabogue, &c. in the year 1793. Twenty-four persons sitting in committee, of whom ten were privates in a militia regiment, were seized with their papers, by which it appears that the murder of the principal loyalists of the County, with Mr. Archibald Jacob, a distinguished magistrate, at their head, was determined on. The discovery is said to have been made by Quigley, lately indicted for high treason in this city, and to whom Counsel has been assigned.

"Two of the conspirators (soldiers) have given information of the views of the committee; and this day at four o'clock Quigley was publicly brought up to the Castle as an approver. This latter circumstance has occasioned the greatest alarm among the disaffected, and I trust will produce the most important discoveries."

In the mean time government neglects no means which can contribute to the security of the country, and prevent the breaking out of any new insurrectionary plots. A letter of the 31st observes—

"Mr. James Tandy was arrested on Saturday, and committed to the care of Mr. Dawes, a King's messenger. This day he was brought up to the Castle, and after undergoing a short examination was remanded. Mr. Tandy is a wine merchant, and son to the celebrated General Napper Tandy, who lately died at Bordeaux."

"Mr. Lawless, a respectable brewer, of Warren Mount, in the East of Meath's Liberty, was also arrested; but being in a state of health not fit to be removed, was suffered to remain in his own house in a state of arrest. Mr. Lawless is brother to Surgeon Lawless, who fled from this country in 1798."

"It is generally understood here that all persons having friends or connections in France will be immediately put in a state of arrest."

"Six persons have been brought into town

this day from Naas, in the county of Kildare, charged with treason or treasonable practices. Warrants have been issued for the apprehension of not less than 100 persons in that neighbourhood. After several applications on the part of Mr. P. Long, merchant, of this city, his friends have, it is said, this day received a final answer from Mr. Secretary Wickham, "that he is to remain in confinement during the war." Mr. Long is a near relative to Mr. Rock, of this city, one of the most respectable mercantile Roman Catholic families in Ireland.

"It is rumoured that bills of indictment for high treason have been found this day against Barnard Caille, muslin manufacturer; but as the business of Grand Juries at this side the water, on occasions like the present, is kept a profound secret, I will not presume to say what credit this report is entitled to.

"The apartments of Mr. Charles O'Hara Aunginia, were yesterday ransacked by Major Sirt, and all his papers sealed and taken to the Castle. Mr. O'Hara was interred about ten days before, after a lingering consumptive illness of about six months."

"Admiral Nelson, it is said, is now employed in preparations for an attempt to destroy the magazine, and ships at Toulon. With this view he has sent to Gibraltar for bombs and gun-vessels; but the harbour of that place is in such a state of defence as to be in little danger.

November 8.

Yesterday dispatches were received at the admiralty, from Admiral Cornwallis. They were brought to Penzance by the Indefatigable, and are stated to announce extraordinary bustle in Brest from which it was inferred that the enemy's fleet was preparing for sea. The contents were transmitted to his majesty at Windsor.

In consequence of the information received by government from the French coast within these two days a very hot press took place last night, and all protections whatever were disregarded. It commenced East of London Bridge all down to the Nore, at six o'clock precisely; and before eight, captain Richell, the regulating officer at the tower, had sent on board the Tender upwards of 500 men. It is believed that ere midnight this number must at least have been doubled; and as the same activity will have been observed down the river to the Nore we may naturally conclude that the total number thus collected must amount in the course of a few hours to some thousands. The same orders were strictly enforced about the very same time, throughout every sea port in Great-Britain.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.

Mr. Dawson, who arrived here on Wednesday in the brig Aurora from Port-au-Prince, has furnished us with the following information, in addition to that given in the last number of the Mercantile Advertiser:

Agreeably to advices received at Port-au-Prince from Gen. Desfaines, he had on the 22d ult. attacked the Cape with all the active force he could raise, said to amount to from 20 to 25,000 men. The descent was effected from Mornes-du-Cap. After having passed the outlines and several of the block-houses, action ensued between the troops of Desfaines and Rochambeau, which continued eleven hours with the greatest obstinacy; when Gen. Rochambeau was under the necessity of capitulating for the evacuation of the Cape on the first instant. All the troops posted at the block-houses between the Barrier and the Haut-du-Cap (the out posts) were massacred, as all possibility of escape to the town was cut off. Agreeably to the capitulation, Rochambeau, with the army under his command were to be embarked under the protection of the British cruising fleet. When Desfaines left Port-au-Prince, he nominated Penox (a mulatto) General of Brigade and commandant of the place in his absence.

"The people of colour, particularly the women, experienced the most cruel treatment; having been put to labour on the public works with negro women to superintend them. The American vessels with provisions were compelled to part with them to the government, and were procured payment in coffee at three and four months.

"Desfaines has given assurances of respect and protection to the American merchants residing at Port-au-Prince, which he had partially observed while Mr. Dawson was there. His officers, however, acted as they thought proper."

"Desfaines is proclaimed captain general of the colony; Clairvaux, Christopher Peiton, and several other mulattoes, are ranked as generals of division and brigades."

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.

We have been informed by a gentleman from Lancaster that the House of Representatives of this State, on Thursday last, took into consideration the bill entitled "an act to revive the act entitled 'a supplement to the act entitled an act to extend the powers of the justices of the peace of this State.' It will be recollected that the governor returned the bill at the commencement of the present session with his objections against its passing into a law. On the question being taken on Thursday on its passage by the House, there appeared 75 in the affirmative, and in the negative.

We are assured that the bill will also pass the Senate, by the competent majority, in which case it becomes a law notwithstanding the opposition of the governor.

FOR SALE,

1600 Acres of good Land, Situated near the mouth of New-River. For terms apply at the office of the Wilmington Gazette. Jan. 17.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1804.

John Page is unanimously re-elected Governor of Virginia.

James Mott, Henry Southard, Ebenezer Elmer, William Helms, Adam Boyd, and James Sloan, forming the republican ticket, have been elected, without opposition, Representatives in Congress, for New-Jersey.

The following are the number of votes given in six of the counties of New-Jersey for the republican Congress ticket:

Cumberland	841	Salem	857
Gloucester	1028	Middlesex	653
Essex	2312	Morris	2456
8163			

An incorrect translation having been published of the following document, which is referred to in the Convention with France of the 30th April last, wherein payment is stipulated of certain descriptions of American claims, we give the present as authentic.—*Nat. Intel.*

View of the American Credits—payment of which is claimed in virtue of the treaty of 9 Vendemiaire 9th year 30 September, 1801.

Credits admitted by the late Commission of Intermediate Comptabilite	3,459,778	13-6
Credits, the reports of which have been submitted to the particular director of Liquidation.	5,093,679	10-2
Credits to be liquidated	8,034,722	14-4
Claims relative to the embargo of 1793.	3,301,122	8-8
Total in Livres	19,889,303	6-8

In compliance with desire, (says the National Intelligencer) we insert the following article from a Carlisle paper, stating that a like measure with that therein contemplated has already been thought of at the seat of government:

As a just Tribute Of respect, regard, and affection, to THOMAS JEFFERSON, President of the United States, For his patriotic, enlightened, and successful Administration of The Government of the United States; and In an especial manner to celebrate THE GLORIOUS EVENT Of the acquisition of the great Country of LOUISIANA, Gained without a drop of blood shed in Contest, Without a cent laid on the inhabitants of the United States, of additional taxation, Whereby, The Territorial, and real Greatness of the United States, is Increased, Its Commercial and Agricultural interests are promoted; and the Integrity of the Union is preserved. Let all Republican Citizens, Throughout the Union, meet in FESTIVITY and as A Day of Jubilee, on the day of 1804.

The day to be announced in the papers, allowing twenty days after notice of possession of Louisiana is received at the seat of government, in order that on the same day, congenial sentiments of happiness and thanksgiving may resound over this wide-spreading country.

From Frederickburg, (Vir.) Dec. 29.

With infinite regret we communicate to the public, an event, the most distressing in its nature, and fatal in its consequences within the compass of our recollection.

On Monday last, Mr. William Thornton and Mr. Francis Conway, met, in consequence of a previous misunderstanding, in the neighbourhood of this town, and sorry are we to announce, that the event proved fatal to both parties.

In the same hour, on Tuesday last, they both departed this life.

By their untimely fate, two weeping mothers are left to deplore the loss of two dutiful sons, their children two affectionate brothers, & society two most promising citizens.—The surviving relations are in a situation easier to be imagined than described.

We sincerely regret the frequency of a custom so prevalent in our country, and hope the melancholy catastrophe, here related, will prevent others from endangering their own lives, or embittering the days of their surviving relations.

Extract of a letter from New-Orleans, dated November 7.

"It is scarcely possible to describe how dull every kind of business is at this place. Specie is unusually scarce. You must distrust any flattering prices current that may be forwarded from hence. European goods are daily sacrificed at auction. Liquors, lately in tolerable demand, have arrived in such quantities as to overstock the markets very considerably. Freights are dull; several vessels having been lying here two months for freight, and are likely to remain as many more. In consequence of the treaty between France and

the United States, adventurers are daily arriving from all parts of the Union. Strangers, who come here to settle with a view to commercial pursuits, will find themselves sorely disappointed, if they bring out any large assortments of European manufactures.—We are all anxious for a change of government, and are daily expecting orders for the surrender of this province to the United States. This measure will gratify most of the colonists excepting the dependents on the crown of Spain. It is generally regarded as the last revolution that Louisiana is to undergo. A change of masters has taken place so frequently, that the Creoles are quite indifferent who rules provided they can be at liberty to import slaves for the improvement of their plantations. Should any restriction be made by Congress on this head, it will convulse this new addition to the American empire. Every thing with regard to our internal regime will we hope continue on its present footing as far as is compatible with the new order of things, for some years to come. As to the privileges of American citizenship, the power of making or choosing our own laws, and electing our own rulers, these are all beyond the comprehension of the good people of this Colony. To raise good crops, to eat and drink of the best, to dance and frolic, are, you well know, the chief end and aim of the Louisianians. If the officers sent by the general government, prove accommodating to a people, whose manners are widely different from the English descendants; if their prejudices are respected, and no odious distinctions made between the ancient colonists and the new comers, this government will be easily administered: for, as I said before, the creoles do not care a farthing about laws, provided they be not oppressive. I hope therefore our intended governor, whoever he may be, and the principal officers, will possess the *suaviter in modo*. On their personal qualifications much will depend. Gen. W. is well known and esteemed here. A little more of the pomp and parade of courts will be required for our meridian than is usual *au nord*. Plain republican manners will not please the creoles." [N. Y. Paper.]

On Monday, in celebration of the New Year, the President of the United States was waited upon by the officers of government, civil and military, foreign Ministers, the members of the two Houses of Congress, and the citizens of Washington, who, together with a large assemblage of ladies, partook of a handsome repast, rendered more agreeable by the accompaniment of the Marine and Italian bands. [Nat. Intel.]

From the first number of the Union, a Newspaper printed by J. Lyon, & Co. at New-Orleans. NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 14.

In consequence of dispatches received by the Colonial Prefect and Commissary of the French government's Citizen Lassit, on the evening of the 23d ult. a conference took place on Monday following, between the Prefect on the part of the French Republic, and his Excellency Governor Salcedo and the Marquis de Cifuentes, Brigadiers in the army of Spain and Commissaries of the Spanish government, on the part of his Catholic Majesty, at which it was agreed that the succeeding Wednesday the province of Louisiana should be formally delivered to the French Republic. On Tuesday all positions to the effect took place. Early on Wednesday the Spanish colours were displayed from a lofty flag staff erected for that purpose in front of the town House, where at eleven o'clock the Spanish troops were paraded, having a company of Mexican dragoons on their right, and the militia of New-Orleans on their left. The Commisaries of the Spanish government proceeded to the town house at twelve, and shortly after the Colonial Prefect repaired to the same place.—The public square, the streets, the balconies, and even the house tops were crowded with spectators anxious to witness a scene so interesting to the inhabitants. The Prefect presented to the Commissaries of Spain an order of his Catholic Majesty, dated October 15, 1803, for the delivery of the colony, and likewise his credentials or powers from the First Consul, to receive the same, bearing date the 6th of June, 1803. The papers being read, the keys of the town were delivered by the Governor to the Prefect; and the Marquis de Cifuentes pronounced the oath of allegiance of the people of Louisiana to his Catholic Majesty to be abolished. The record of these proceedings being read, a signal was fired for the descent of the Spanish flag, which was directly followed by another for unfurling that of France. The Spanish troops withdrew; the Prefect announced to the Militia, in a brief address, the change of government—and gave them a commander. It gives us great pleasure to be able to state, that the utmost harmony and good intelligence has prevailed over the intercourse between the agents of the two nations. The punctuality and good will which have been observed on this occasion by the Spanish Commissaries and the magnanimity of their behaviour, and command the esteem and well confidence of all nations. The Prefect having assured the rest of government commenced and completed the arduous and important duties of organizing the civil and military departments of the colonial government with a celerity which experience only could have enabled him to perform; the wisdom of his measures may be attested by the harmony and order that prevails among the vast variety of the inhabitants of this country. On Thursday a dinner was given by the Prefect to twenty-two French, Spanish and American gentlemen, in celebration of the preceding events. After dinner the following toasts were drank: The French Republic and Bonaparte. To Spain, and Charles the IV. To the United States and Thomas Jefferson. For each toast a treble salute of 21 guns each.

The dinner was succeeded by a splendid illumination, concert, ball, &c. The assemblage of nearly one hundred ladies at the ball was truly beautiful, brilliant, and interesting. On the evening of the 24th inst. a less, perhaps more magnificent than that of the Prefect and more numerously attended was given by the Marquis de Cifuentes, in compliment to the commissary of the French government, and in celebration of the happy fulfillment of their respective commissions.

The American citizens here have formed themselves into a corps of volunteers, offered their services to the Prefect, and been received as auxiliaries to the militia of the town, in which capacity, under the command of Daniel Clark, Esq. they perform regular duty, patiently waiting the arrival of the American troops, who are shortly expected here in company with General Wilkinson, commander of the American troops, and his excellency William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of the Mississippi territory, who have been appointed by the President of the United States, Commissaries to receive the government of Louisiana.