

CONGRESS.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Friday, December 7.

Mr. Thomas said, he rose with a view to propose an enquiry relative to the duty on salt—on this article a duty of six cents per bushel was first laid; in the year 1797 it was raised to twelve cents, and in the year 1797 eight cents more were added, making the duty twenty cents per bushel of 56 lbs. at which rate it now stands—But as every measured bushel of good strong salt which is imported into this country, will weigh 80 or 90 lbs. this is in reality a duty of about 30 cents per bushel. Three years ago, when the repeal of the Stamp Act, excise and other internal tax laws, were before Congress, an attempt was made to reduce the duty on salt, and retain a part of that system. At that time, although he was conscious the duty on this article of real necessary consumption was too high, and fell extremely heavy on the agricultural part of the community, particularly those living back from the sea board; who were obliged to use large quantities of it, for their black cattle and other beasts of pasture, notwithstanding the increased price at which it came to them, in consequence of the transportation, and the profits charged on the amount of duty as well as original costs by the several merchants or traders through whose hands it passed, yet he did believe it better to allow this duty to remain as it was, a while longer, rather than not be enabled to abolish that expensive inconvenient and anti-republican system of internal taxation.

Mr. T. went at considerable length into arguments to shew the policy of encouraging the importation of other than Liverpool salt, which was found on experience not to be fit for preserving meat.

He concluded with moving the following resolution:

Resolved, that the committee of ways and means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of reducing the duty on salt, and also into the propriety of making a distinction in the duty, so as to encourage the importations of salt from the dominions of Denmark, Sweden, the United Netherlands, Spain, France, Portugal and the British West-Indies, in preference to that of any other place or places; and that they report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. J. Randolph said that the resolution which the gentleman from New-York had submitted, and in relation to which he had favored the House with such copious details, embraced two objects—the reduction of the duty on salt, generally—and the encouragement of the importation of a particular description of that article. The last subject belonging to a class which was assigned to the committee of commerce and manufactures, he should confine himself to the first branch of the resolution: nor should he have troubled the House at all were not the motion of the gentleman from New-York calculated to excite an expectation, which he wished to repress, because he feared it would not be granted. It was not to oppose the enquiry, but to apprise the mover and the public that the result was likely to prove unpropitious to his wishes, that he had risen.—The country on which the salt duty fell with peculiar force was that middle region, near enough to be supplied altogether by importation, but too remote to have its consumption diminished by vicinage to the sea. Those whose stock had access to salt water felt the duty but partially—those whose situation obliged them to use salt of home manufacture only, not at all. As an inhabitant of that district of country by which the duty was principally paid, and as a friend to agriculture, he had at an early period of the session, in conjunction with his friend the Speaker, turned his attention to the practicability of reducing the duty on salt—and you well know, Sir, (said Mr. R.) that the result of our enquiry satisfied us that this desirable object was not at present attainable. He mentioned this to shew that other members felt an interest in this subject, as well as the gentleman from New-York, although they had not brought it before the House. Mr. R. then shewed that the treasury statement on which that gentleman relied for the support of his position, that we can dispense with a portion of our existing revenues, establishes the opposite opinion, beyond controversy.

The house would recollect that by our last accounts our flotilla was bombarding Tripoli. Who could answer for its fate? Who could undertake to say that, before the Christmas holidays, intelligence might not be received from that quarter (as was the case last year) which would render it necessary to employ new buxens, instead of taking them off. He was as much interested in lowering the impost on salt, as any member in that house could be, but he felt it to be his duty explicitly to state that the object at which the resolution aimed was illusory.

After some further observations a division of the question was called for, whereupon the latter part respecting the repeal of the duties was referred to the committee of ways and means.

After this question, the second part could neither be debated nor amended—and a question to refer it was lost.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the report in favour of the Georgia claimants of land lying South of Savannah, having time to register the evidence of their titles in the office of the Secretary of State.—On motion of Mr. Clark, three months were allowed for the

purpose.—The committee of the whole rose and reported and the House agreed to the report.

A message was received from the Senate informing, that they would be ready to receive the articles of Impeachment against Samuel Chase one of the associate Judges of the Supreme Court, this day at 1 o'clock.

Mr. J. Randolph from the managers appointed on the part of the House, to conduct the impeachment against Samuel Chase, an associate Justice of the United States, reported that the managers did, this day carry to the Senate the articles of impeachment agreed to by this House, on the thirtieth ultimo;—and that the said managers were informed by the Senate that their House would take proper measures relative to the said impeachment, of which this House should be duly notified.

Monday, Dec. 10

Mr. J. Randolph from the committee of ways and means brought in a bill authorising the completion of the valuation of houses, lands, and slaves in South-Carolina which had been inaccurately done under the law of 1798. The bill was read twice and referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday next.

Mr. J. Clay, presented a memorial from the chamber of Commerce at Philadelphia remonstrating against the bill intended to restrain merchant vessels from arming. Referred to a committee of the whole on the bill regulating the clearance of armed merchant vessels.

Mr. Lowndes presented a petition in behalf of the claimants of Georgia lands in the upper Mississippi country, praying Congress to take up the subject and decide thereon during the present session. Referred.

Mr. Rodney called for the order of the day on the bill for establishing a court for the adjudication of prizes in certain cases. After some time spent in discussing the bill, filling up the blanks and amending some of the sections, the committee rose and reported the bill with amendments. They were immediately taken up in the house, and gone through, and the house adjourned.

Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Mr. Speaker laid before the house a letter enclosing sundry resolutions entered into by the inhabitants of the county of Alexandria, against a re-cession of that part of the district of Columbia to the state of Virginia, which, on motion of Mr. Lewis, was referred to the committee of the whole on the subject of a re-cession of the district, except the City of Washington, to the states of Maryland and Virginia.

Mr. Early observed that the law authorising the claimants of Georgia lands South of Tennessee to register the evidence of their titles under Great Britain or Spain in the office of the Secretary of State, had expired last month, and thereupon he moved that a committee be appointed to revive the same, allowing further time for that purpose. A committee of five was appointed accordingly.

The order of the day on the unfinished business of yesterday, being the report of the committee of the whole on the bill establishing a court for the adjudication of prize causes in certain cases, was taken into consideration, and the last clause of the bill, on motion of Mr. Rodney, was recommitted to the select committee of seven, who reported the bill.

The Senate of the United States have fixed the second of January for the appearance of Samuel Chase to answer to the articles of impeachment preferred against him, and have directed notification thereof to be made to him fifteen days previous thereto.

PHILADELPHIA, December 10.

LIBERTY OR DEATH.
JACQUES, Emperor of Hayti, directs the following Ordinance to be carried into effect throughout his dominion.

All vessels, to whatever nation they belong, that shall introduce spirituous liquors into this island, shall be liable to pay a duty of 2 dolls. per gallon, on the liquor thus imported.

The General Minister of the Finances is specially charged with the execution of this decree, and the Generals and other military authorities are directed to aid and assist in carrying the same into effect.

Done at the Imperial Palace of Dessalines, the 27th day of September, in the first year of the independence of our reign.

By the Emperor,
Bolstrond Temere.

NORFOLK, Dec. 18.

Our late French papers say, "they write from Spain, that the ex-General Moreau, instead of proceeding to America, retires, with the consent of the French government and the court of Spain, to the Island of Minorca."

Several of our late French papers have the following curious reflections:

"The American Gazettes often make mention of the Wife of Jerome Buonaparte.—It is possible that M. Jerome Buonaparte, not yet twenty years old, has a MISTRESS—but it is not probable he has a WIFE, since the laws of France are such, that a minor of twenty, or even of twenty-five years, cannot marry without the consent of his parents or guardians, and without having passed in France

the formalities prescribed by law. M. Jerome Buonaparte was born in Dec. 1784, and it is already a year since the American papers announced his MARRIAGE!!!"

Statistical account of Austria.—Austria may be regarded, after France, as the first power in Europe, as well from the extent of her territory as of her population. The extent of her territory is estimated at 158,840 geographical miles, and her population at between 25 and 26 millions of inhabitants. Her army in time of peace is fixed by a regulation of last year, at 270,000 men, & in time of war it amounts to 365,000 men. The revenues of Austria amount to about ten millions a year; but during the late war she made considerable loans, and her public debt amounts now to about 40,000,000. The principal cities are Vienna, which contains 254,000 inhabitants, Venice 180,000, Prague 80,000, Graz 35,000, Presburgh 30,000, Buda 38,000, Cracovia 24,000, Lemberg 20,000, Salzburg 20,000, Trieste 13,000. The public edifices at Vienna, Buda, and above all, Venice, merit the attention of travellers. The noble Hungarians have castles which correspond with their riches, but not always with our manners. In the castle of Ellerhazy, a few miles from Presburgh, and which the Germans compare with the castle of Versailles, there were when Fortin visited it in 1792, 400 clocks and not one book.—*Journal de Commerce.*

WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1805.

CHARLESTON, DEC. 19.

By Capt. McNeill of the ship Two Friends, who arrived yesterday in 47 days from London, and who left Cowes the 29th of October, we have been favoured with London papers to the 27th of the same month.

From the subject matter of the notes presented by the Russian to the French Minister, it might be inferred, that war between Russia and France would soon commence; but some of the English papers think that the former will not begin hostilities unless new aggressions take place on the part of the Corsican.

No new form of Government is yet given to the "Batavian Republic,"—but, from appearances, a change in name, is contemplated.

No declaration of war by England, against Spain, has taken place—but the ships of the former are authorised to capture those of the latter.

Attacks by the English vessels of war continue to be made upon the Bologne flotilla—but not any thing of great importance has resulted.

LONDON, OCT. 25.

On the 2d inst. the city of Bremen paid their first instalment of 100,000 dollars to the French. It is said to be ascertained that Schimmelpennick will enter on his office of President of Holland on the 20th inst. with extensive powers and authority, and that he is for this elevation to pay to Buonaparte's family in the course of ten years, fifty millions of florins.—Entire new relations with France are to be immediately promulgated.

The three Hamburg Mails, all that were due, arrived this morning. The French and Dutch papers have, as usual, anticipated the intelligence brought by them.

Discontent is making rapid strides in Constantinople, and has been manifested in the usual way, setting fire to parts of the capital.

An article from Constantinople of the 10th ult. says, "A fire of eight hours continuance has to-day laid in ashes five mosques, and above one thousand houses. In the night of the 7th a large village in the vicinity of the capital, principally inhabited by Jews, was likewise burned."

An article of the 27th ult. adds, "the late destructive fire which laid the village of Jophano, the artillery barracks, in ashes, is attributed to the discontent of the populace, on account of the scarcity of bread. The Janissaries likewise have not received their pay for some time."

The Russians are rapidly increasing their force in the Seven Islands. A Russian 64 with troops, arrived in the Dardanelles on the 27th of Sept.

The journey of the Pope, (who is now recovered from his indisposition) to Paris, will be by Florence, Bologna, Alexandria, &c. where all the necessary preparations are made for his reception.

The accounts from Venice state, that the Russians are collecting a great quantity of artillery and acc'les, not less than 15,000 in number, in the Republic of the Seven Islands, where five generals, besides the officer who has the principal command, have already arrived.

Of the nature of the points in dispute between Russia and France, and of the demands made by the former, our readers are already informed. It would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to combine in an official exposition of the sentiments and system of any government; more dignity with more forbearance, more firmness with more moderation; it would be difficult too, to depict in stronger or more animated colours, ambition,

oppression, cruelty and injustice, as exhibited in the character and conduct of Buonaparte, than is exhibited in the two Notes which M. D'Oubril presented to the French government previously to his departure from Paris.

The following are the charges brought by the Russian government against France:

The violation of the territory of Baden. The interference in the affairs of other nations, wishing to take no part in the present troubles.

The refusal of the offer of Russia to mediate between England and France.

The levying contributions on the Hanse Towns, and the menaces thrown out against Denmark.

The persecutions of the emigrants in foreign countries.

The seizure of a naturalized Russian at Rome.

The accusations against Russia of protecting conspirators, which France upon being desired to prove, declined.

The forcing Portugal to pay for her neutrality.

The burthening Naples with the maintenance of French troops.

The treatment of Switzerland and Holland as French Provinces.

The seizure of Hanover, in violation of every notion of right and justice.

The possession of Cuxhaven.

The insulting conduct to the Russian ambassador at the Thuilleries.

The refusal to give a satisfactory explanation with respect to the seizure of the Duke d'Enghien at Ettenheim.

The violation of the solemn pledge to indemnify his Sardinian Majesty.

The innovations introduced into Italy.

The Russian Notes touch upon the inhuman and indecent manner in which the French government recurred in one of its answers to the Russian ambassador, to the death of the Emperor Paul.

The charge adduced against his imperial Majesty with respect to the occupying the Seven Islands is most victoriously refuted.—The Russian note states, "that the Republic, which had been first evacuated by the Russian troops, was occupied by those drawn from the state of Naples, with the consent of the Porté, by the request of the inhabitants, and in consequence of a previous arrangement with France."

It would be impossible to collect a greater body of evidence and proof against France than has been concentrated in the compass of these two Russian Notes. His Imperial Majesty concludes by declaring that the odium of the war shall rest upon France. "As it is the French government alone which has given rise to the present state of affairs, it will also depend upon it to decide whether war is to follow or not. In case it shall compel Russia, either by fresh injuries or by provocation aimed against her or against her allies, or by still threatening more seriously the security and independence of Europe, his Majesty will then manifest as much energy in employing those extreme measures, which a just defence requires, as he has given proofs of his patience, in resorting to the use of all the means of moderation consistently with the maintenance of the honour and dignity of his crown."

We received this morning the Paris papers to the 21st, and the Dutch to the 24th. Buonaparte has deferred his coronation to the 25th of November; the preparations could not be completed on the 9th, or the 18th Brumaire, the day on which it was at first intended that the ceremony should take place. The Legislative Body has been convoked for the 22d of next month, to assist at the coronation, and Buonaparte is to go to Fontainebleau to meet the Pope, and conduct him to Paris.

The Moniteur that announces the postponement of the Imperial coronation at Paris, contains the account of the ceremony to be observed at the thanksgiving at Vienna on the 1st of next month, an account of the accession of his Imperial Majesty to the hereditary Imperial dignity of Austria.

COMMERCE.—The trade carried on between this country and America is immense. At Liverpool, seldom less than 60 vessels are loading at one time for that quarter; and the commerce carried on from London, Hull, and Glasgow, is proportionally great. From the latter port two vessels sailed in the last week of August for New-York, which among other things, had on board 184,215 yards of cottons and muslins; 142,849 yards of printed cottons and linens; 255,735 yards of British and 48,975 of Irish plain linnen. Excepting in the midst of winter, there seldom passes a week but one or two vessels sail from Greenock to the western world; and at the above mentioned period, ten or twelve vessels were loading for America. The raw materials, of which the above mentioned cargoes were composed, would not cost the nation more than 5,000, and they are worth above 100,000. The total value of the exports from Great-Britain to America amounted to between eight and nine millions per annum, though in 1774 they did not exceed one million and a half. Including those from the British settlements in the East and West Indies, they will be little short of twelve millions.

GENOA, SEPT. 22.

An agreement has been entered into between England and Russia, to possess the