

RICHMOND, Dec. 20.

The remoteness of our situation from the European world, and the nature of our republican Institutions will generally exempt us from all the occasions of an offensive war. Should a war ever arise, with any of those nations, our operations will principally assume a defensive character. Our coasts will be invaded, and our seaport towns will be bombarded, and against any casualties of this sort it may perhaps be good policy to prepare the means of defence. These will consist either in a navy which may change its place of destination; which may advance to meet the hostile fleet, or retire from its power; which may accompany it to different quarters and defend different points of our coast; or in forts and fortifications of our harbour, which like a stationary navy upon the land may defend the places where they are erected though they are unable to shift the scene of action, defend other places, or march against the invader. The following extract from a New-York newspaper is intended to illustrate the advantages of erecting timely fortifications to defend that harbour.

NEW-YORK, Dec. 17.

OUR OLD FRIEND.—The British Frigate Cambrian, Bradley, Commander, returned from Halifax on Friday last, and came to anchor within the Narrows. This is the same Bradley who, in the same frigate, resisted the visitation of our Health Officer, impressed American seamen on the Quarantine Ground, trampled upon the sovereignty of this state, and opposed the operation of the Revenue laws of the United States. Mr. Lang, the "confidential friend" of Col. Barclay, "His Britannic Majesty's Consul General for the Eastern States," has not condescended to inform us whether Bradley or his successor Beresford, is again to blockade our harbour, insult our laws, impress our seamen, pour "grapeshot," most valiantly into our defenceless vessels, and plunder our merchants. He still finds us, however, in our wonted unprotected condition and as willing as ever to bear whatever outrage it may please this servant of the crown to offer.

By the bye it may be worth while for Congress to enquire, how that they are in session, into the expediency, if not necessity, of effectually fortifying the harbour of New-York. We have long enough been the sport, and we are every day liable to become the prey of foreign nations. The safety of this opulent city, perhaps the tranquillity of the United States, imperiously solicits the attention of Congress to this subject. We have been buffeted, and licked and driven from the execution of our laws, by the Cambrian, the Leander and the Defiance; and to add to the indelicacy of the disgrace, the minister of a King of France has threatened us with three ships of the line and six frigates from the "King my master!" Were the King his master to put us to the sword, he might lay us under a "contribution" equal in amount to any expense which the most complete and efficient fortification could cost. It will compare with the pride and safety of the nation to be thus unnecessarily exposed to danger from without. Perhaps we are more vulnerable than any other part of the Union. And yet so to its income of the greatest importance. Every one knows that the annual revenue of the United States is somewhat less than 12,000,000 dol. Of this sum the port of New-York has generally yielded about a third. But I am informed, and I believe correctly, that the commerce of this port yielded, the last quarter, but little less than 1,500,000 dol. which is at the rate of 6000,000 per annum, or one half of the revenue of the United States! Apart from all other considerations then, do not the receipts of our Custom-House require the most efficacious protection?

It is no answer to say that, under present circumstances, we have nothing to fear from without. We know, we feel that we have suffered insult, and we are sensible that by the least as well as the greatest of European powers, our banks and wealthy individuals may be plundered and our city razed to the ground. We ought not to be at the mercy of any power on earth. American Citizen.

NORFOLK, December 22.

FIRE!! FIRE!!

About 2 o'clock on Thursday morning the inhabitants were alarmed with the repeated cry of fire! which had taken place in the dwelling house of Mr. Bowman, Granby-st. The fire had taken such effectual hold before the family were aware of it, that they scarcely had time to save themselves from the devouring element, which immediately communicated to Mr. Watson's dwelling adjoining, which, with all the out-houses, in a short time, were entirely destroyed, notwithstanding the great exertions of a vast concourse of citizens who were present, and who, through their active performance saved the adjoining houses. As usual our enemies were full of noise—only one appeared, and that might as well have been left under lock and key, for it could not be ailed.

We are sorry to remark, that this is the second time in the course of ten months, that Mr. Bowman has suffered by fire, and that he has lost the most of his furniture.—Mr. Warren also a great deal having little time to save his property.

December 23.

Capt. Drummond, in the brig Fame,

arrived here yesterday from Gibraltar; in 43 days, from whom we have obtained the following particulars:

The fever at Malaga had nearly subsided, that at Gibraltar not more than 4 or 5 died in 24 hours, the opulent part of the inhabitants of Alicant had quitted that city.

Capt. Drummond further states, that it was believed at Gibraltar, that a rupture between the emperor of Morocco and the United States would shortly occur.—It was not known at the time captain D. failed that any further attack had been made on Tripoli by the American Squadron, but as there are a number of letters from the officers, we presume full details of the operations of the Squadron will be presented to the public in a few days.

By capt. D. we further learn, that there was every appearance of war between Great-Britain and Spain. A few days before capt. D. failed an embargo was laid on all vessels not cleared out.

WILMINGTON, N. C.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1805.

By the last New-York papers it appears that apprehensions are entertained that a conspiracy has been formed for the purpose of burning the city, that the conflagration which took place on the 18th ultimo, was the result of design, and that subsequent attempts have been made for the accomplishment of a similar purpose. The Mayor of New-York has issued a proclamation offering a reward of Five Hundred Dollars for the detection of such conspiracy, and a further reward of Five Hundred Dollars for the discovery of the incendiary or incendiaries, who may have occasioned the fire on the 18th, or any subsequent fire, or who shall hereafter set fire to the city.

The Mayor has issued another proclamation, setting forth, that anonymous letters have been sent to John Duffie and — Macheag, the former a Merchant the latter a Grocer of New-York, advising them of an intention of setting fire to certain parts of the city; and offering a reward of Two Hundred Dollars for the discovery of the writers of said letters.

The friends of a wide diffusion of knowledge, through proper seminaries, and of a vigorous system of internal improvements, (says the National Intelligencer) have not been disappointed in their expectations that these great objects would be promoted, under republican auspices, with augmented zeal. The spirit which has reposed in the breasts of a small number of citizens, is rapidly passing from one part of the country to another, and exciting an honourable rivalry between the different members of the union. Among the instances that attest the expanding views of our countrymen, we notice with pleasure the introduction into the legislature of North-Carolina of a bill to empower commissioners to contract for the opening and establishing a turnpike road, to pass through part of the territory belonging to the Cherokee Indians; and of another bill to incorporate two companies for the purpose of cutting a navigable canal from the Roanoke to the Meherrin river, and from Bennett's Creek in North-Carolina to Nansemond river in Virginia.

While we gratefully attest an honest pride in attesting the liberal policy that is about to give birth to these important improvements, we cannot refrain from expressing the humiliation we feel, at the treatment which the University of North-Carolina has received from those who should consider themselves its best friends and guardians. With the examples of the munificent support of education, set by the neighbouring states of South-Carolina and Georgia, it was hoped that the councils of North-Carolina would, by a regular patronage, however limited, have fostered the only great seminary within her limits. Her University was founded many years since. The existing resources of the state not being extensive, the endowment was small. In order to increase it, the legislature at a subsequent period, granted the institution the proceeds arising from excheated and confiscated property. About the time this fund began to grow productive, the legislature repealed the law granting it, and divested the University of this resource.

The friends of the University have, with a perseverance that does them honour, at every subsequent session, endeavoured to abrogate the repealing law, and restore the fund arising from excheated and confiscated property. For three successive years the attempt has failed. Renewed again at the present session, it has shared the same fate; by a majority however, so small, as to animate rather than to repress zeal. The majority in a body of one hundred and seventeen is but six.

LATE FOREIGN NEWS.

The ship Portland Captain Wills, has arrived at Reedy-Island in the Delaware, from L'Orient, which place she left the 24th of October.—By her, files of Paris and Nantz papers to the 21st of that month are received in Philadelphia, but no translations had been made when the mail which reached us this morning left there. Capt. Wills, (says the Philadelphia True American) informs, "That the ship Thomas, from New-York, with Gen. Armstrong, Ambassador from the United

States, had arrived at Nantz; that a few days before he left L'Orient two Spanish ships loaded with linens, from St. Maloes to Spain, were captured by a British frigate. When Capt. W. arrived at L'Orient, upwards of 30 sail of Gun Brigs, Pinnaces, &c. lay there; on his departure, not more than ten remained and they dismantled, about 25 had been recently captured and destroyed on their passage thence to Brest, by two British frigates, the crews of the Gun-Boats in general were very sickly owing to the want of accommodation under deck. A fine ship to carry 90 guns, was launched there during his stay, and three others in forwardness, on the stocks, but no seamen to man them.—War with Russia was strongly talked of in those circles where liberty of speech was exercised, and the long contemplated invasion of England generally scouted—provisions plenty and cheap, but the once flourishing port of L'Orient was totally bereft of its trade, and the merchants' extensive stores occupied by the government." N. Y. Herald.

FROM NORFOLK, DEC. 13.

Loss of the schooner Polly and Peggy.

We are sorry to perform the painful task of announcing the loss of the sch'r Polly and Peggy, captain Beal, of this port, from Antigua, bound to this place. It appears that this vessel was cast away on the night of Thursday the 20th inst. near Currituck Inlet, and distressing to state, it is believed every person on board perished. Of the cargo, consisting of rum, about seventy or eighty puncheons have drifted on shore, and are saved. The vessel has gone to pieces.

[Ladger.

In addition to the preceding, our Marine Memoranda will be found to contain details of great distress on the coast, and we apprehend that yet further and greater distress has been suffered, for we do not recollect at any period for many years past, so much bad weather as has been experienced for the last ten or fifteen days past.

From a pilot we learn that a sch'r has gone up to Baltimore, having the crew of a vessel taken off a wreck a few days since; particulars we have not learned.

Arrived brig Superior, capt. Wallington, 75 days from Lisbon, bound to Philadelphia, in distress, has been twice within the capes of Delaware, and five times drifted into the Gulph-Stream, and has been one month on the coast. On the 25th December, in 16 fathoms water, picked up capt. Lewis and crew of the ship Pelham, from Surinam for New-York, had sprung a leak in a gale of wind, and sunk. Capt. Lewis and crew were 48 hours in the boats, before they were picked up by capt. Wallington.

We are informed by a gentleman from St. Thomas, that the late distressing fire at that place, was occasioned by the following circumstances: A domestic, in the act of fumigating a chamber to clear it of those pests of these climates, the musquitoes, accidentally let the candle come in contact with a musquette-net, which being very combustible, was soon in flames, and spread over the whole room. The fire could not be arrested; and it was estimated that the loss of property occasioned by this accident, exceeded seven millions of dollars.

[Phil. Paper.

There are letters in Boston, from the River of Plate, dated the 12th of August, which mention that on the 6th of that month, the crews of all the vessels in the river, excepting two, were pressed, to reinforce the crews of the Spanish frigates then lying at Montevideo, laden with specie, and bound immediately for Cadiz. This circumstance is given as corroborative of the English account of the capture of the Spanish treasure ships. It is probable, the English frigates were stationed off the the southern Azores to intercept these vessels; which they anticipated would make St. Mary's their first land-fall from the coast, when bound to Old Spain.

A gentleman who resided some years on the Rio-de-la-Plata, mentions, that during the late war with Spain, there were upwards of 30 millions of dollars collected at Puenos Ayres, and destined for the mother country, brought from the interior, on mules.

It is probable, from the number of men the Spanish captured frigates took on board in the river, they had heard of an expected rupture between Great-Britain and Spain before their departure.

Those acquainted with the Spanish navy say, the Fame, captured by the English, is one of the finest frigate, in the world.

N. Y. Merc. Adv.

London, October 4.

Nothing, according to the minor Paris journals, has ever equalled the preparations for the approaching coronation. The event is represented as affording the means of independence to every industrious inhabitant of the French capital. It is asserted that upwards of 3,000,000 strangers will be present on the occasion, of whom 2,000,000 are foreigners. Apartments, it is added, have already been engaged for 2,000,000 of visitors, amongst whom are reported to be 2 kings and 10 inferior sovereign princes. The milliners and jewellers are incessantly occupied; one of the former, madame le Moine, who always kept in employ fifty apprentices and assistants, has engaged eighty additional females from the provincial towns, and has hired three large houses, which she has filled with the productions of her art.

A jeweller on the quai d'Orneve has mortgaged all his landed property to purchase diamonds to the amount of 1,000,000 francs (250,000 l.) and twelve hundred new carriages have been finished by the coachmakers on the Boulevards alone, while double that number have been ordered from Simons, of Brussels. There were 2300 petitions presented to the prefect of police for leave to open new coffee houses, and eighteen new theatres have already been licensed for the time of carnival. Out of several hundred petitions to open gaming-houses, forty-four have been granted, and ladies of a certain description have been allowed to receive a reinforcement of several thousands from the country.

The Paris Moniteur contains the following remarks under date of Frankfort, July 17:—"This year will be remarkable in the annals of Meteorology, for the extraordinary variations of the atmosphere; and the number of storms that have followed; thunder, especially, has made ravages of which there are but few examples in Germany; upwards of 100 houses and edifices in various places have been struck, and in parts reduced to ashes, while a still greater number of people have sustained hurt. We have before spoken of the sudden inundations in Saxony, Silesia, Austria, and Hungary; and of the drought in the western parts of Germany; while in the east the rains have been excessive and incessant. We may infer from this singular irregularity of the season, that some revolution has occurred in the interior of the globe, which has deranged the usual equilibrium, and occasioned a sudden and considerable increase of the electric fluid in the atmosphere."

From a Correspondent at Washington, under date December 18th.

"CONGRESS may be said to be literally doing nothing. There is, indeed, little interesting business before them. Attempts have been made to make some sort of provision for the more effectual preservation of pens in the ports, harbours, and waters under the jurisdiction of the United States; but all have failed heretofore, and the subject seems to be put to sleep, at least for the present. In like manner, there has been a committee raised to take into consideration the question of arming our merchant vessels; a bill has been reported by them, which, after having occupied the House several days, received a score of amendments, and gone even to an engagement, has just been recommitted to another select committee, and the whole business, I presume, is to be taken up de novo.

"Within these few days, the weather has been very severe. The Potomac is this morning frozen over.

"Accounts from most parts of the Continent represent the crops of corn as indifferent. The price of wheat, and other grain, has taken a rise lately in most of the sea ports.

"The tobacco crops are represented as abundant."

Cesar A. Rodney member of Congress, from the state of Delaware, on the application of the Legislature of Pennsylvania, has agreed to undertake to support the impeachment of the Judges of the Supreme Court, before the Senate.

Messrs. Stockton & M'Whorter, (says the editor of the American Citizen) two leading federal lawyers of New-Jersey, have accepted fees from Mr. Burr, to plead in his defence, in the case of the indictment found against him for having killed Mr. Hamilton in a duel.

Mr. Harper, it is said, will appear as counsel for Judge Chase.

A Pig was killed by the Post-master at Kinderhook, (N. Y.) on the 12th ult. which when dressed, weighed six hundred and twenty-four pounds!

LAWs of NORTH-CAROLINA.

AN ACT

To raise a revenue for the payment of the civil-list and contingent charges of government for the year 1805.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of North-Carolina, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That for the year 1805 a tax of eight pence on every hundred acres of land within this state, and a tax of two shillings on every hundred pounds value of town lots with their improvements, and a tax of two shillings on every poll shall be levied, collected and accounted for in the same manner as such taxes hath heretofore been levied, collected and accounted for.

And be it further enacted, That a tax on all stud horses and jack-asses within this state of the full sum which the owner or keeper of such stud horse or jack-ass shall ask demand or receive for the season of one mare shall be levied and collected as above.

And be it further enacted, That all free males between the ages of twenty one years and fifty and all slaves between the ages of twelve and fifty years shall be subject to a poll tax.

And be it further enacted, That each and every person who shall hereafter peddle or hawk goods in any of the counties of this state, shall first obtain a licence from the Clerk of some county in this state; under his seal of office, and the person so peddling and hawking goods shall pay to the Clerk before obtaining said licence the sum of ten pounds to the use of the state, to be accounted for by the Clerk in the same manner as tax fees are accounted for, and any licence so obtained