



FOREIGN.

The ship Julia, Capt. Snow, arrived at Boston on the 28th of Dec. from Valencia, via Gibraltar—Capt. S. left Valencia, Oct. 19, and the latter place the 24th. He reports, that the Spanish people are perfectly united in their cause and new government; that governors had been appointed to all the provinces in the kingdom;—that 4000 English troops had been landed near Valencia from Portugal, and had marched and formed a junction with 71,000 Spaniards who were drawing near, and investing Barcelona, (which was by the last accounts in possession of the French) but it was thought they could not hold out long as Admiral Collingwood had a strong naval force blockading that port.

That the French had, it was said, 50,000 men at Perpignon, for the relief of Barcelona, but that they had not attempted to enter; that the day before he left Valencia, an agent from the general government requested him to stay a few days, to bring out dispatches to the government of the United States, and to the governors of the several states, the purport of which was to inform them, that all Spanish Ports were open to neutrals for a free trade.

The Charleston Packet has arrived at Philadelphia, Dec. 28 from Bordeaux, (the precise time of her departure we have not learnt) but the *Moniteur*, *Indicateur*, and *Argus*, down to November 1, have been received.

Seventy-five vessels bearing the American flag, had been carried into Charente, 71 of which were found to have forged papers, and to be British property; the greater number of these vessels were from Norway, with hemp, iron, and other naval stores. Coffee had been at a dollar a pound in France, but had fallen to one third.

Cotton was at two dollars the pound. Provisions of every description were abundant in France.

The army that had capitulated in Portugal would not be suffered to have intercourse with the troops on the march for Spain—it seems that army is put into *Hochly* or as the English would say sent into *Coventry*.

The meeting of the two emperors at Erfurth has been followed by the evacuation of the Prussian capital by the French troops, and all the rest of Prussia, save only the fortresses of Custrin, Glogau, and one other.

The Emperor Alexander, appeared in public with the insignia of the French legion of honor; and Buonaparte with that of the Russian order of Alexander Newski. The Russian minister Romanow has also accepted the legion of honor badge; and marshal Lanne, and Champagay have been complimented with the Russian military order of St. Andrew.

On Tuesday, the 27th Oct. his majesty the emperor and king repaired in state to the palace of the legislative body, in order to open the session.

His serene highness the vice grand elector, having received his majesty's permission to present to take the oath, the deputies of the legislative body, who have been appointed since the session of 1807, these deputies were called by Mr. Despalieres, questor, and each took the oath at the foot of the throne.

The call being ended, his majesty said: "Gentleman deputies from the departments, to the legislative body—"

The codes that fix the principles of property and civil liberty, which are the objects of your labors, obtain the good opinion of Europe. My people already experience the most salutary effects from them.

"The last laws have laid the basis of our system of finances. It is a monument of the power and greatness of France. We shall henceforth be able to make good the expenses which would be occasioned even by a general coalition of Europe, by our sole annual receipts. We shall never be constrained to have recourse to the disastrous measures of paper currency, of loans, and of arrears.

"I have travelled this year upwards of a thousand leagues in the interior of my empire. The system of works which I have ordered for the improvement of the territory, is carrying on with activity.

"The sight of the great French family, lately torn asunder by opinions and intestine hatreds, now prosperous, tranquil and united, sensibly moved my soul, I felt that to be happy, it was necessary for me to be first of all assured that France was happy.

"The treaty of peace of Presburgh, that of Tilsit, the attack of Copenhagen, the attempt made by England against all the maritime nations, the different resolutions of Constantino-ple, the affairs of Portugal and Spain have diversely influenced the affairs of the world.

"Russia and Denmark have joined me against England.

"The United States of America have preferred to renounce commerce and the sea, rather than to acknowledge the slavery of them.

A part of my army is marching against those armies which England has formed or

landed in Spain, it is a particular providence from that providence which has caused the help of God, to crown the king of Spain at Madrid, and plant my eagles upon the towers of Lisbon.

"I have every reason to be satisfied with the sentiments of the princes of the confederation of the Rhine. Switzerland feels every day more and more the benefits of the acts of mediation.

"The people of Italy give me only cause of satisfaction.

"The emperor of Russia & I, have had an interview at Erfurth. Our first thoughts were of peace, we even resolved to make some sacrifices in order to make the hundred millions of men whom we represent, enjoy, sooner if possible, all the benefits of maritime commerce, we agree, and are invariably united for peace as well as war.

"Gentlemen deputies from the departments to the legislative body—I have ordered my ministers of finances and the public treasury, to lay before you the accounts of the receipts & expenditures of this year. You will see in them, with satisfaction, that I have no occasion to raise the tariff of any tax. My people will experience no new burden.

"The orators of my council of state will present to you different projects of laws and among others all those relative to the criminal code.

"I constantly rely upon all your assistance.

His majesty's speech excited the most lively enthusiasm, and the sitting was raised amidst the repeated cries of long live the emperor! The same acclamations resounded in all the streets through which his majesty passed.

Ship *Charleston Packet*, off Newcastle, Dec. 27.

The present will serve to inform you of my arrival from Bordeaux, which place I left on the 23 of Nov. by special permission of his Majesty the Emperor, through the interference of our Minister, for the purpose of bringing home the distressed seamen of our country, belonging to vessels condemned and sequestered; those in the latter situation, the Council of Prizes have sometime since received orders to suspend the trials of—A general Embargo continued on all neutrals throughout the ports of France. I have on board a number of passengers, one of which is bearer of Dispatches from our Ambassador at Paris for the American government.

I have herewith enclosed you a file of Bordeaux papers, but from which I believe few political truths may be gathered, according to the reports from Spain and elsewhere. Bordeaux and its vicinity was crowded with sick and wounded returning from Spain, and these troops were allowed no communication with the new reinforcements from the Grand army marching that way. So unfavorable were the accounts they bring from the seat of war, it was currently reported and credited that the French had been defeated with great slaughter in a late action in Catalonia, that King Joseph maintained with great difficulty his position at Burgos and Vittoria.—The grand army was daily increasing by forced marches through Bordeaux, and about 50,000 had already passed that city—as many more by other routes.

The Emperor arrived at Bordeaux the morning of my departure, he remained there but three hours and continued his rout towards Spain. His haste is said to be in consequence of meeting a courier from thence with unfavorable news. The French troops under Junot who capitulated in Portugal, were daily arriving at Bordeaux and Rochefort in English transports, and was reported were marching into the interior of France, and not to be sent on the present campaign, for certain reasons. Previous to the separation of the emperors of France and Russia at Erfurth, each sent a courier with pacific propositions to the court of St. James's (so says the official Gazette at Paris)—report said they were not received. Since this conference of their majesties the rumour of war with Austria appears to have subsided.

Little may be said of the commercial state of affairs, as no change has taken place except a small depreciation in colonial produce, owing to a number of late arrivals of letters of Marque.—Many others were fitting out in the different ports which was believed would continue to reduce the markets the absence of the American flag for so long a time has created a spirit of enterprise, and taught them to carry on a commerce independent of us, and they boastingly say, we shall no longer monopolize the trade of their colonies.

In the Bay of Biscay, I passed to leeward of a squadron of about fifty sail of men of war and transports, steering towards Spain and Portugal; spoke none of them; but the next day, was boarded by a British Sloop of war, who treated us politely, and permitted to proceed, without even overhauling the ship's papers, but merely enquired the news from France.

The French have surprised and taken the British garrison on the island of Capri, in the bay of Naples—900 troops together with the fortress, &c. is taken.

The messenger, Mr. Shaw, who carried the reply of the British cabinet to the French government, has returned to England. There will be no peace; as Britain required Napoleon to evacuate Spain and restore Ferdinand.—The particular complexion of Bonaparte's reply had not transpired on the fourth of November.

The English fleet has left the Baltic; the attempts on the Russian squadron in port Baltic having proved ineffectual.

A London editor says, that the emperor Alexander has been loaded with trinkets and toys, presented by Bonaparte in abundance, sufficient to seduce a queen of Otaheiti and all her maids of honour.

His Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland's regiment, has embarked for Spain—

States, or of the militia as may be judged necessary. There will be selected who are most conversant in all respects qualified to act in the secrets to which they may be called. In these appointments the Senate is to have concurrence. They are to be Presidential agents for issuing requisitions to the standing army, or militia, and not amenable to any tribunal for their conduct. Heretofore a delicate & respectful attention has been paid to the State authorities on this subject.—The requisitions of the general government for the militia have been made to the governors of the State. And what reason is there for taking a different course to enforce the Embargo?

Under our present system, had not insurrections been suppressed, rebellions quelled, and combinations and resistance against lawful authority overcome by the force of the general government in co-operation with the state governments? Is not the authority of the Marshal competent to the execution of the laws? I see no cause for these arrays of the military throughout the country, and the unrestrained licence that is to be given to its operations. It is a fundamental principle of a free government, that the military be kept in subordination to the civil powers, and never be put in motion till those be found incompetent to preserve the public peace and authority. But by the provisions of this bill, these Presidential agents may call out the standing army or militia, or part of them, to follow in the collector's train, to seize specie and goods, in houses, stores, and elsewhere, and generally for executing the embargo laws. And even the public peace, so far as respects the suppressing armed and riotous assemblages of persons resisting the custom house officers in the exercise of their duties, it would seem can no longer be confided to the States; and it is thought necessary to surround custom house officers with bands of the standing army or militia.

The bill before us is bottomed on a report of the secretary of the treasury. How often were his strenuous remonstrances, and those of the chairman of the committee who reported the bill, (Mr. Giles) formerly heard against the extension of executive patronage and influence? the interference of the general government in the local polity of the states, and the ordinary concerns of the people? and above all against standing armies? Then no such executive prerogatives were claimed as this bill contains; no such attempts made as here are made for intrusions on the internal polity of the states, and the ordinary concerns of the people; and then our army, small in comparison with its present establishment, was kept aloof from the affairs of the state, and the persons and property of the citizens. Our country was happy, prosperous, and respected. The present crisis is portentous. Internal disquiets will not be healed, nor public sentiment controuled by precipitate and rash measures. It is time for the public councils to pause. This bill, sir, ought not to pass. It strikes at the vital principles of our republican system. It proposes to place the country in a time of peace under military law, the first appearance of which ought here to be resisted with all our talents, and efforts.—It proposes to introduce a military despotism, to which freemen can never submit, and which can never govern, except by terror and carnage.

On this Bill being read in the House of Representatives on the 29d Dec. Mr. Quincy moved to postpone the consideration until Monday, to allow 3 days to consider it. This motion being lost, he then moved to make it the order of the day for Saturday. This was approved. Mr. Q. sustained the motion—he said that the Bill struck at the very root of the constitution, and was fraught with the most dangerous and alarming consequences. It was intended to strip the people of their freedom, to destroy the fundamental principles of our constitution, to make them slaves to the worst of masters. I was born a freeman (said Mr. Q.) and I mean to remain one. I will transmit to my children as fair an inheritance as my father bequeathed to me, or I will perish in the trial. This bill was only passed by the Senate, at a late hour last night, and I solemnly declare, that I have not yet studied it. If I am not allowed a reasonable time to consider the law, I shall disdain to act upon it when it is brought before the house. If it is to be hurried through this house by force without permitting its deformities to be exposed, I for one will employ every means to arouse the spirit of the nation, and inform the people of the manner in which their rights have been invaded.

Mr. Gardener followed, and opposed the immediate consideration of the bill "The law was intended to bring into existence a swarm of petty tyrants; creatures of executive creation, clothed with arbitrary powers, were to overturn the country, and tyrannize over the free people of America. That it went to create a military inquisition, and martial law was to be proclaimed through the country to subdue the spirit of independent Americans, to awe them into silence, and force them to breathe their sighs softly, when their chains should gaul them. I claim time (said Mr. G.) to reflect well upon a question which involves every thing that is sacred and dear to my constituents. I would humble myself before the overbearing power of the majority and implore them to allow but one day, four and twenty hours, to weigh in our minds a question which implicates the freedom and happiness of my country. Shall our liberties be buried under this arbitrary law, and we not permitted to cast our eyes back and give one longing, lingering look behind us. Shall we be torn from the embraces of what every American would lay down his life to defend, and not allowed a moment to bid farewell. To me, (Mr. Speaker)

"A day, an hour, of virtuous liberty, is worth a whole eternity in bondage."

"Of what rights, what sacred privileges will free Americans be left to boast, after the adoption of this most arbitrary, tyrannical and oppressive law—a law prostrating the Constitution at the feet of an ambitious individual, whose insatiable, whose mere breath, is to be made the source of all legitimate power—a law subverting the consecrated temples of justice

and destroying the authority of the Judiciary, and creating, at a single dash, the whole civil independence of the country. I beseech gentlemen to pause for a moment, and not rashly precipitate the nation into a state of hideous anarchy and confusion. I ask no more of the majority, than one day to prepare my mind to discuss a question which is pregnant with the most interesting consequences to the nation.

Mr. Epes said that gentlemen were pursuing a very singular course with regard to the bill, and on a mere question on what day it should be made the order, for they were entering into a discussion of its merits. This mode he could not but look upon with surprise, and regarded it as being improper. It would have the effect of creating a prejudice in the public mind, against the contemplated law before its provisions could be made known to them. The gentlemen who found themselves in the minority, had asserted that the bill endangered the liberties of the people; yet they confessed that they had not been able to understand it. This was a strange manner of acting. For his part if he had thought the bill infringed the liberties of the people, he would not have thus indirectly endeavoured to render it unpopular with the public, or side-ways attempted to delay its passage; but he would have manfully rose in his place and have moved its immediate and unequivocal rejection. But gentlemen had not chosen to do this. They had preferred to attack the bill in the undecided and irregular manner in which it had been done, under the plea of not having had time to understand it. He thought gentlemen had a sufficient opportunity of gaining knowledge upon the subject, while the bill was under the consideration of the other branch of the legislature where it originated. It had been framed in consequence of information contained in the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, long in the possession of every member in the house; and the report of the committee who had drafted it, must have been seen by all.—Gentlemen could not then, with propriety, complain of their not having had time to understand the subject. He felt himself ready to enter upon its discussion, and did not wish to see its consideration delayed.

Mr. Lyon observed, "I am one of those, Mr. Speaker, who think the embargo ought not to be continued, but at all events, that if provision is to be made to force it down by military power, that time ought to be allowed to study and digest the bill which has been passed by the Senate for the purpose. At any rate, Mr. Speaker, for goodness sake do give us to-day, don't take it up to-day. This is the twenty second of December, the anniversary of the embargo. It is an ominous day, and the bill offered now for our consideration contains the worst attack upon the constitution and the liberties of my country that ever was before heard of. I have always been a Republican, and I mean to continue one—I exerted all my might and main to put out the *fetters* and to get the republicans upon top of them, but I won't help to put them under them again. If you pass this bill, mark what I tell you, the *fetters* will get overmost, for our party is falling off every day. If you will make a law like this, the people will soon let you see that the same things which put one power out won't keep another in. By this law a man can't pass the lines without having his pockets picked by these dictators, the collectors. If he appears to be going across the line with a little money in his pocket, he may be filled of all of it, for money's money whether it be 1000 dollars or 10 cents. Mr. Speaker we want time to read this here strange law before we take it up to speak about it. We shall be longer speaking about it, if we begin to speak upon it at once without knowing any thing about it than if we understand it first and then speak about it. The furthest way round is the shortest way home sometimes, I'm sure no gentleman will speak on this bill until he has read it, and at least thinks he understands it. I shall say no more."

Mr. Macon was not himself prepared to vote upon the bill; and wished to allow time. He was not, however, of opinion that the bill partook of all the horrid features which had been ascribed to it. The embargo laws had been represented as dreadful in every respect, but this bill it was said was much more frightful and ugly than that. He recollected when the embargo was first proposed, gentlemen thought her so comely and beautiful a damsel, that the only dispute was, who should have the honour of introducing her. But it appeared that some of those who had been struck with her then, now looked upon her to be more disgusting than sin; and that this bill, her daughter, was more loathsome than the mother. He hoped the bill would be made the order of the day for Saturday.

Mr. Sloan said that he was one of those who had been smitten with the charming appearance of the damsel alluded to; but thought it quite consistent that those who had courted her favour while they thought her beautiful and innocent, should shun her when she proved to be nothing but a *filthy harlot!*

Mr. Livermore said he had not been deceived, like the gentleman from New Jersey. He regarded her as a prostitute at the beginning, and found her no better still.

Mr. Macon declared that he did not mean to accuse the gentleman from New Jersey of having any thing to do with the damsel in an indecent way. He had no doubt but that the gentleman had, as he declared, taken her to be virtuous; but it appeared that other gentlemen were more knowing.

Adjourned till to-morrow.