

NAVY AGENTS' ACCOUNTS.

Mr. Slocum held that in the course of the session of Congress held in June, 1809, a report in part had been made by a committee generally called the investigating committee. Among the accounts com-

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to explain to this House the cause wherefore the several bills of exchange, amounting to \$56,000 dollars, and of various dates, from May 10th 1805 to February 21, 1807, were charged in account No. 2, of Degen, Purviance, & Co. navy agents at Leghorn, as settled at the navy department on the 17th day of March, 1809, and for what reasons the same were not included in the account of the said Degen and Co. which was settled in the navy department on the 30th June, 1808, and also to inform this House whether the said bills were purchased by the then Secretary of the Navy, or by a navy agent, and, if by the latter, that a copy of the said navy agent's accounts, embracing the period of purchase, also accompany the information required.

Resolved, That Secretary of the Treasury be directed to lay before the House any information which he may have obtained through our minister in France, in answer to the letter addressed to him on the 26th day of June, 1809, (or from any other source) relating to the funds which the drawers of bills (from May 10, 1805, to February 21, 1807) on Degen, Purviance and Co. navy agents at Leghorn, had in the hands of the said Degen and Co. at the time of the transmission of said bills, or, at the time when they were passed to the credit of the United States by the said navy agents.

These resolutions were agreed to without opposition. To-morrow being Christmas day, the House adjourned to Wednesday—62 to 23.

Wednesday Dec. 26.

Mr. Burwell, offered the following resolution which was referred, on the suggestion of Mr. Poindester, to the committee of Public Lands.

Resolved, That a further time of six months ought to be allowed to claimants to land in the state of Georgia south of the states of Tennessee to register the evidences of their titles with the Secretary of State of the United States.

On motion of Mr. Morris,

Resolved, That the committee of Public Lands be instructed to enquire what provision ought to be made respecting the location of Virginia military land warrants west of the boundary line designated by the act of the 23d of March, 1804, and that they report thereon by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Johnson, the House came to a resolution to appoint a committee to revise the laws for establishing trading houses, &c. and regulating intercourse among the Indian tribes.

Some other business of minor importance was done. The House adjourned at an early hour.

SENATE, DECEMBER 24, 1810.

Mr. Leib presented the petition of sundry merchants of Philadelphia, praying relief from the operation of the non-intercourse law—which was referred to the committee of Foreign Relations.

Also, the memorial of the Chamber of Commerce, praying a renewal of the charter of the Bank of the U. States—Referred to the committee on the subject of Banks.

The bill to continue the Mediterranean fund was passed to a second reading.

The bill to make up the deficiency in the appropriation for the year 1810, for the relief of distressed seamen, was passed to a second reading.



The noisy herald of a busy world.

FOREIGN.

LATEST FROM ENGLAND.

Boston, December 18.—Capt. Gray, who arrived yesterday, left London on the 1st of November; at which time the Orders of Council had not been repealed, and it was not known what was the intention of the British government on the subject.

We received London papers to the 51st of October, (four days the latest) from which the following articles are copied:

LONDON, OCTOBER 31.—The King has been indisposed for several days, in consequence of a cold.

Russia has proposed to renew negotiations with Turkey, and to give up the main points in dispute, viz. the possession of Moldavia and Wallachia. This is thought to be owing to the Russian jealousy of France.

Bernadotte, the French Crown Prince of Sweden, has arrived in Zealand; and one letter mentions, that he had landed at Helsingburg, in Sweden, October 16th, under a salute of all the batteries.

The Admiralty have made known to the merchants of Lloyd's Coffee-House, that the increase of the number of the French privateers fitted and sailing from the various ports in the Channel, and the North sea, is beyond precedent; but that every possible attention be paid to the protection of trade.

It is stated in a ministerial paper, that the case of Lucien Bonaparte has been submitted to the lawyers, and the question put, whether, from the circumstances under which he fell into our power, we have a right to constitute him a prisoner of war. The lawyers have decided in the affirmative, and government have determined to act accordingly. A ship of war has, in consequence, been sent out to Malta, to take him on board, and to convey him, his family, and effects to this country.

A paragraph, in the Paris Monitor, states that Gen. Drouot, with the troops under his command, which is an entire corps of the French, is proceeding to Almeida, to keep up Massena's communications in the rear—in fact to co-operate with Massena in any way he may have occasion for.

The French Emperor has issued a decree penning the importation into France of Colonial Produce now in Holstein, which may be the basis of vessels captured by the Danes, provided, however, that on entry at Hamburg, the new duties shall be paid thereon; and that the declaration of the facts should be made at Hamburg before November 1.

PARIS, OCT. 21.

"The Supercargo of the Giacou communicates in a letter, dated the 14th, that he is detained at Lissa by contrary winds, but that he is at liberty, and that all the Turkish vessels that were schootered in the Adriatic have been liberated."

DOMESTIC.

Our Southern Frontier.—The following is an extract of a letter from a gentleman of high respectability and intelligence in Mississippi territory, dated November 28. It has been calculated that Governor Claiborne would reach Natchez on the 9th; so that we may expect, at an early day, to receive information of the manner in which he has been able to execute his instructions in taking possession of the territory West of the Perdido.

Enclosed you will receive a copy of a letter from Don Vincent Folch, Governor General of the Floridas, by which you will perceive, that our trade in this quarter is released from the burdens under which it has hitherto been oppressed.

"We are annoyed with another Burr project against the Spaniards. It is headed by a Mr. Kember of Baton Rouge, and Mr. Kennedy a lawyer of this place. They have inveigled many of our uninformed citizens across the national boundary, where they have, a few days since, raised their standard, and are preparing to attack the town of Mobile."

SIR—In conformity to the wishes of the government of the United States, a copy of which you have presented me, and in consequence of negotiations which I have every reason to believe are now pending between his Catholic Majesty's and your government, which I am fully persuaded, will speedily place the Floridas in the possession of the latter; I hereby declare, that from this date, no duties whatsoever shall be levied or collected at this place, or within this district, (including Pascagola) on any vessel, goods or merchandise, belonging to any citizens of the United States, or their territories, or any person residing in either, or passing to or from the Mississippi territory.

In consequence of this friendly step, which the Spanish government gives as an unequivocal proof of their desire to maintain a good understanding with the United States, I hope that their government will employ its forces to dissipate the troubles lamented and protected by their citizens.

May God preserve you many years. (Signed) V. FOLCH. Mobile, November 25th 1810. Capt. F. P. Gains.

West Florida.—A gentleman from Pensacola and Mobile, direct, informs that both those posts were in an excellent state of defence and well filled with troops—that governor Folch was at Mobile, where he was expecting a reinforcement from Havana, when he intended advancing for Baton Rouge—that colonel Kemper, in the service of the convention, was on the Alabama river, with 300 men, where he will probably remain until he receives a reinforcement; the standard of independence had been renounced by Major Kennedy, in the vicinity of Mobile, where the cause has many friends.

We learn from St. Francisville, that the legislature assembled there last week under the new constitution, and elected FULWAR SIMPSON Esq. governor—and that in consequence of despatches from colonel Kemper, a detachment of 1,500 men (with a suitable train of artillery) under the command of colonel Kirkland marched from St. Francisville for Pensacola, on the 24th ultimo.

By a gentleman from New-Orleans, which place he left on Monday last we learn that whilst he was at Baton Rouge, the squadron of gun boats, which sailed a short time since from this place, passed & exchanged a salute with the fort. Great military preparations were going on in Florida from which our informant supposed some enterprise of consequence was in contemplation.—Natchez Chronicle.



MISCELLANY.

THE OBSERVER, No. VII. December 14, 1810.

Talibus exemplis monita nova sacra frequentant, Turbaque dant, sanctasque colunt Ismenales aras. Ovid.

By so distinguishing a judgment aw'd, The Niebans tremble, and confess the God—Dryden.

It is remarkable that among heathen nations the number of those who have refused submission to the reigning superstition has been exceedingly small. This observation is applicable not only to barbarians, but to the improved inhabitants of Greece and Italy. But few extended their thoughts to the one Supreme Creator, and drew their morals and religion from his perfections. Even the systems of these few were expressed with a studied deference and subserviency to the popular idolatry, nor did they attempt to bring it into dispute, or to supplant it with a more rational worship. Since the introduction of christianity a striking difference has appeared. The sects of those who have wished to cover it with reproach, or to destroy it entirely have been numerous, industrious, and sometimes powerful. This religion once laboured for a long period under great corruptions; and it is worthy of notice that its enemies, were then less numerous and less indefatigable. The indulgencies, the adoration of relics, saints and images, the outside pomp and ceremony, even the pretended miracles, the transubstantiation, and the celibacy of the Romish church stood their ground for some ages. They were sel-

dom questioned, and men lived quietly under the grossest abuses when thousands had the plainest relations of these abuses in every page of the same volume. Deists were then but little heard of, for keeping their unbelief to themselves, they were willing that others should remain unconvinced of their errors, to enjoy their faith.

But since this religion has been cleared of the human inventions and false glosses which were attached to it, it is no longer palatable, and its enemies are numerous and active. This is a fact which surely is remarkable, and we are prompted to enquire what may be the reason of it. Looking dispassionately into the religion itself, we cannot discover any reason why it should excite resentment, or be charged with absurdity, so much as the other religions which escaped them, or even as itself at the time when it was received with acquiescence. Among protestants who possess this divine religion unmix'd with abuses, it is usual to remark that its services are not attended with that earnestness and devotion which are seen in an assembly of Romanists. Among us infidelity claims a considerable portion of society, and it is zealous of making proselytes. To secure ascendancy, it flies to authority and argument, and it addresses itself both to interest and love of reputation. Those national superstitions, in examining which, a reasonable man could advance but a few steps, without being struck with palpable absurdity, never kindled the shame of their votaries; but the pure worship of Christianity, and a conscientious obedience to its laws, through the sense of shame is most successfully attacked.

A departure from paganism was at least as likely to be beneficial and just, as it was to be dangerous and false. Though capable of deterioration, they seldom approached so near to perfection, as not to leave wide room for the discovery of absurdities, and the suggestion of amendments. A dissent therefore was so far from deserving to be stigmatized, that it might be an evidence of the greatest virtue, and discernment of the truth.

But far different is the case with christianity, and those who withstand it. As this is a perfect religion, any departure from it, must be into the road of degeneracy, and any contradiction of its principles, implies the admission of something erroneous and hurtful. Its enemies would willingly rank it with all popular superstitions, and then extenuate their rejection of it, into a matter of little moment, or even arrogate superior penetration and virtue from renouncing it. But this is a desperate undertaking, which they will never be able to effect. Where a system is so just and answerable to the exigencies of our nature, it is out of the power of sophistry or confidence to prevail against the common sense of mankind, who have access to be acquainted with it, or against that wise and Almighty Providence which is pledged for the protection of human happiness. Every attempt to direct odium or resistance upon it, must be ascribed not to a defect in our religion, but to a want of instruction in its merits, or to a want of virtue. Even a bad man, whatever he may think in a moment of levity or passion, cannot deliberately think well of one who would treat unadulterated christianity with scorn and hatred, or who wishes to form his conduct upon principles at variance with it. For as to morals, who can help thinking that justice is better than fraud, truth than deception, purity than dissimulation, and benevolence than malice or revenge! Even in the exercises of devotion, who but the resolutely hardened, will say that piety and worship are not better than profanity, or even a mere adherence to moral rules attended with a total forgetfulness of our Maker? As to what are styled the mysteries of our religion, of which a liberal use is made to discredit every part of it, every one knows that all nature is full of inexplicable mystery even to men of the greatest abilities and research, much more to those of the least. A few doctrines taken relative to the world of spirits and the divine nature, which we are not competent fully to understand, will never be supposed by the greater part of mankind, to be a sufficient, or the real cause of opposition, so long as it is natural for men to dislike, to despise, and to argue against, what represses their excessive desires, restrains their libertinism, & chastens their crimes. Men often think to raise the fame of their genius and independence, by holding christianity in derision. But the regular, the discerning and the orderly, who after all, like salt are the preservers of the earth, are not for a moment imposed on; but know how to vindicate the system which contains the perfection of truth and virtue, against the fallacious arts or bold attacks of unbelievers.

We need scarcely do more than enumerate the true reasons which induce thousands to become or continue deists, to refute the cause which they espouse. With many it is a sufficient motive against submitting to the Scripture, that they do not leave them at liberty to seize on every pleasure, or every species of emulence which lies within their reach. The scriptures are a standard of distinction between vice and virtue, which far from yielding to the caprices of men, always deliver the same sentence on the same subject. They forbid intemperance; they restrict the enjoyments of the world by settled limits; they command duties irreconcilable to the promiscuous opinions and propensities of undisciplined nature. To adopt these rules, so unpliant to the occasions of interest and enjoyment, appears an intolerable sacrifice of happiness. Many consult, not what truth and the ultimate issue demand, but which pleasures and prospects are most opportune to the grasp. They eagerly invent and then exaggerate objections against the reality of revelation, and with the slightest pretext of argument or authority, they wish and are persuaded that its pretensions are as groundless as they appear hard and unreasonable. On no better foundation than this stands a large proportion of the Deism and unbelief which are so common in the world. Singularity from the common herd, as they choose to style other men, furnishes urgent reasons for improving every argument they can raise, and every scintillation of wit, into proofs that no confidence is due to our religion. Others are influenced most by the manners and opinions of fashion. They see many who possess the wealth, the luxuries and the elegancies of life, regarding but little the obligations of virtue, appearing superior to its prudence, and setting off their virtues with every demonstration of ease, of gracefulness and magnificence. The undisturbed facility, the gay splendour, the superior consequence of the fashionable, gilds their opinions and their irregularities in such seductive charms, that many are tempted to adopt them, and know not how to forego the fancied pleasure and credit of participation. To assume or to court the cares of mental discipline to engage in the humiliation of repentance, to cul-

ivate a delicacy of conscience, that monitor already so troublesome, to be faithful to the offices, and the sentiments of piety, to be forced to love our fellow men, instead of being at liberty to hate or despise them; to enter into so straight a path when the broad highway of freedom and indiscriminate delights lies open before us, appears too insupportable. In such a temper of mind, incapable of realising the more exalted, safe and exultive joys of virtue, these persons slight with indifference every argument of immortality, loosen every tie that fastens them to its shores, and floating abroad on the tide of delusion, proudly leave behind the religion of the gospel to furnish restraints for superstitions and vulgar minds.

That vice and its imagined pleasures, that singularity, that fashion and the pride of magnificence; that carelessness and indifference about remote and future interests; that the dread of losing credit and the opportunities of fortune; that a reluctance to submit to the modest and essential duties of christianity, are strong motives for rejecting its arguments and its obligations, there are few, the internal experience of whose bosoms does not attest. Degenerated as we are in our natures, every motive of christian virtue, every aspect of sanctification, and every precept or document of truth and eternity is seen in forbidding contrast to present temptation. Even the power which temptation exerts, is improved into a conclusive reason against the doctrines which impose regulation or restraint.

If these allurements did really speak the language of the Almighty, commanding us to follow where they lead, such directions ought to conduct us to substantial and un fading happiness, and experience should justify the wisdom of their guidance. But the misery is, that nothing but experience is wanted to evince their fallacy, and to make these phantoms of sense vanish into empty air, leaving the forlorn wanderer a prey to remorse, disappointment and regret; teased with desires which he finds not worth the toil of pursuit, and perhaps convinced though late, by the debilities and pains of a broken constitution, that nature by no means speaks the language, which she was imagined at first so plausibly to pronounce. But life moves on, and carries us incessantly along in its course. What prospect is there that a mind, habitually intent on present interests, shall do justice to the reasonings of a future, perhaps of a far distant period? Facts are resolutely denied, arguments are firmly controverted: Even if testimony be fortified by the whole detail of circumstances, by antecedent, cotemporaneous and consequent history, by the sublimity of truth, by moral purity, by its tendency to the most rational and enduring happiness, how easy is it to remove all these out of sight, to hide them behind a cavi, to eclipse them to our unwilling and half averted eyes by the flashes of wit, or the factitious glare of contemptuous profanity. How easy is it to flatter ourselves that our life is not that state of trial, of conflict between right and wrong which can require such interpositions of the divine mercy, to atone for transgressions, to enlighten the understandings, and to inspire that conscientious repentance which christianity demands.

From the whole view which I have taken of this subject, it would appear that the greater prevalence of scepticism in christian countries, than of opposition amongst heathens against their established superstitions, can be accounted for in no other way, but by the superior claims which our religion makes upon us of piety and the perfection of virtue. To specify the idolatries of different nations, would be enough to display their dissoluteness, but even this is unnecessary. They however have secured the ready compliance of their votaries, nor were they under the necessity of sustaining the assaults of a standing body of opponents. It awaited christianity alone, whose title to celestial origin is ascertained by the excellence of its doctrines, the sublimity of its mysteries, and its capacity of exalting us to the perfection and glory of angels, to be met by men with an opposition, whose perseverance and strength are commensurate only with the immeasurable superiority of its merits. OBSERVER.

The Star.

RALEIGH,

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1811.

Among the documents published in our page 4, will be found the following enquiry submitted by Mr. Armstrong to the French minister.

"Is it his majesty's will that the seizures made in the ports of Spain, and other places, on the principles of reprisal, shall become a subject of present or future negotiation between the two governments?"

To this M. Champagny replied, "As to the merchandise confiscated, it having been confiscated as a measure of reprisal, the principle of reprisal must be law in that affair."

From the haughty and abruptness of this reply, there appears little hope the American property will be restored. It would seem however from the temperate manner in which Mr. Madison notices it, in his late message to Congress, that it is not likely to interrupt the good understanding subsisting between this country and France. He terms it "a misapplication of the principle of reprisal combined with a misconstruction of the law of the United States."

Runners of the day at Washington.—Gideon Gauger, Esq. is to be appointed Judge, in the room of Judge Cushing, dec.; and Samuel H. Smith is to be appointed Post Master General in his place.

We are authorized to state that Francis X. Martin, Judge of Orleans, is progressing in writing the History of North-Carolina; and that he will return or send to this state for the collection of further materials to complete the work, and that it will be finished in as short time afterwards as possible.

Tobacco sold lately at Lynchburg, Va. at ten dollars and one penny per hundred.

A VERY LIBERAL REWARD

Will be given to any person who will carry about one hundred weight from this place to Knoxville Ten. nese.

Enquire of the Printer. Raleigh, Dec. 3, 1810.