the territory belonged, in a certain sense, at least, to the savage enemy who inhabit it, the power of Spain had ceased to exist over it, and protection was sought, under her title, by those who had committed on our citizens hostilities, which she was bound, by treaty, to have prevented but had not the power to prevent. To have stopped at that line would have given new encouragement to these savages, and new vigor to the whole combination existing there, in the prosecution of all its pernicious purposes.

In suppressing the establishment at Amelia Island, no unfriendliness was manifested towards Spain, because the post was taken from a force which had wrested it from her. The measure, it is true, was not adopted in concert with the Spanish government or those in authority under it. Success, in transactions connected with the war in which Spain and her colonies are engaged, it was thought proper, in doing justice to the United States, to maintain a strict impartiality between the belligerent parties, without concerting the question in concert with either. It gives me pleasure to state that the governments of Buenos Ayres and Venezuela, whose names were assumed, have explicitly disclaimed all participation in those measures, and even the knowledge of them, until communicated by this government, and have also expressed their satisfaction, that a course of proceeding had been suppressed, which, if justly imputable to them, would dishonor their cause.

In authorising Major Gen. Jackson to enter Florida, in pursuit of the Seminoles, care was taken not to encroach on the rights of Spain. I regret to have to add, that, in executing this order, facts were disclosed, respecting the conduct of the officers of Spain, in authority there in encouraging the war, furnishing munitions of war, and other supplies to carry it on, and in other acts not less marked, which evinced their participation in the hostile purposes of that combination, and justified the confidence, with which it inspired the savages, that by those officers they would be protected. A conduct so incompatible with the friendly relations existing between the two countries, particularly with the positive obligation of the 9th article of the treaty of 1795, by which Spain was bound to restrain, even by force, those savages, from acts of hostility against the United States, could not fail to excite surprise. The commanding general was convinced that he should fail in his object, that he should in effect, accomplish nothing, if he did not deprive those savages of the resource on which they had calculated, and of the protection on which they had relied, in making the war. As all the documents, relating to this occurrence, will be laid before Congress, it is not necessary to enter into further detail respecting it.

Although the reasons which induced Major General Jackson to take these posts were duly appreciated, there was, nevertheless, no hesitation in deciding on the course which it became the government to pursue. As there was reason to believe that the commanders of these posts had violated their instructions, there was no disposition to impute to their government a conduct so unprovoked and hostile. An order was in consequence issued to the general in command there, to deliver the posts; Pensacola, unconditionally to any person duly authorised to receive it; and St. Marks, which is in the heart of the Indian country, on the arrival of a competent force to defend it against those savages and their associates.

In ordering Florida to suppress this combination, no idea was entertained of hostility to Spain and, however justifiable the commanding general was in consequence of the misconduct of the Spanish officers, in entering St. Marks and Pensacola, to terminate it, by proving to the savages and their associates, that they should not be protected, even there; yet the amicable relations existing between the United States and Spain could not be altered by that act alone. By ordering the restitution of the posts, those relations were preserved. To a change of them, the power of the Executive is deemed incompetent. It is vested in Congress only.

By this measure, so promptly taken, due respect was shewn to the government of Spain. The misconduct of her officers has not been imputed to her. She was enabled to review with candor her relations with the United States, and her own situation, particularly in respect to the territory in question, with the dangers inseparable from it; and, regarding the losses we have sustained, for which indemnity has been so long withheld, and the injuries we have suffered through that territory, and her means of redress, she was likewise enabled to take, with honor, the course best calculated to do justice to the United States, and to promote her own welfare.

Copies of the instructions to the commanding general; of his correspondence with the Secretary of War, explaining his motives, and justifying his conduct, with a copy of the proceedings of the courts martial, in the trial of Arbuthnot and Ambristie; and of the correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Minister Plenipotentiary of Spain, near this government; and of the Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States at Madrid, with the government of Spain will be laid before Congress.

The civil war, which has so long prevailed between Spain and the provinces in South America, still continues without any prospect of its speedy termination. The information respecting the condition of those countries, which has been collected by the commissioners, recently returned from thence, will be laid before Congress, in copies of their reports, with such other information as has been received from other agents of the United States. It appears from these communications, that the government of Buenos Ayres declared itself independent in July 1816, having previously exercised the power of an independent government though in the name of the king of Spain, from the year 1810; that the Banda Oriental, Entre Rios, and Paraguay, with the city of Santa Fee, all of which are also independent, are unconnected with the present government of Buenos Ayres; that Chili has declared itself independent, and is closely connected with Buenos Ayres; that Venezuela has also declared itself independent, and now maintains the conflict with various success; & that the remaining parts of South America, except Monte Video, and such other portions of the Eastern bank of the La Plata as are held by Portugal, are still in possession of Spain or in a certain degree under her influence.

By a circular note addressed by the Ministers of Spain to the Allied Powers, with whom they are respectively accredited, it appears that the Allies have undertaken to mediate between Spain and the South American provinces, and that the manner and extent of their intervention would be settled by a Congress, which was to have met at Aix-la-Chapelle in September last. From the general policy and course of proceeding observed by the Allied Powers, in regard to this contest, it is inferred that they will confine their interposition to the expression of their sentiments: abstaining from the application of force. I state this impression, that force will not be applied, with the greater satisfaction, because it is a course more consistent with justice, and likewise authorises a hope that the calamities of the war will be confined to the parties only, and will be of shorter duration.

From the view taken of this subject, founded on all the information that we have been able to obtain, there is good cause to be satisfied with the course heretofore pursued by the United States in regard to this contest, and to conclude that it is proper to adhere to it, especially in the present state of affairs.

I have great satisfaction in stating, that our relations with France, Russia, and other powers continue on the most friendly basis.

In our domestic concerns we have ample cause of satisfaction. The receipts into the treasury, during the three first quarters of the year, have exceeded seventeen million of dollars.

After satisfying all demands which have been made under existing appropriations, including the final extinction of the old six per cent stock, and the redemption of a moiety of the Louisiana debt, it is estimated that there will remain in the treasury, on the first day of January next, more than two millions of dollars.

It is ascertained that the gross revenue which has accrued from customs during the same period amounts to twenty-one millions of dollars, and that the revenue of the whole year may be estimated at not less than twenty-six millions. The sale of public lands during the year has also greatly exceeded, both in quantity and price, that of any former year, and there is just reason to expect a progressive improvement in that source of revenue.

It is gratifying to know, that, although the annual expenditure has been increased by the act of last session of congress, providing for revolutionary persons, to an amount about equal to the proceeds of the internal duties, which were then repealed, the revenue for the ensuing year will be proportionably augmented and that, whilst the public expenditure will probably remain stationary, each successive year will add to the national resources, by the ordinary increase of our population, and by the gradual developement of our latent sources of national prosperity.

The strict execution of the revenue laws, resulting principally from the salutary provisions of the act of the 20th of April last, amending the several collection laws, has, it is presumed, secured to domestic manufactures all the relief that can be derived from the duties, which have been imposed upon foreign merchandize for their protection. Under the influence of this relief, several branches of this important national interest have assumed greater activity, and although it is hoped that others will gradually revive, and ultimately triumph over every obstacle, yet the expediency of granting further protection is submitted to your consideration.

The measures of defence, authorised by existing laws, have been pursued with the zeal & activity due to so important an object, & with all the despatch practicable in so great and extensive an undertaking. The survey of our maritime and inland frontiers has been continued; and at the points where it was decided to erect fortifications, the work has been commenced, and in some instances, considerable progress has been made. In compliance with the resolutions of the last session, the board of commissioners were directed to examine in a particular manner the parts of the coast therein designated, and to report their opinion of the most suitable sites for two naval depots — This work is in a train of execution. The opinion of the board on this subject, with a plan of all the works necessary to a general system of defence, so far as it has been formed, will be laid before congress, in a report from the proper department, as soon as it can be prepared.

In conformity with the appropriations of the last session, treaties have been formed with the Quapaw tribe of Indians, inhabiting the country on the Arkansaw, and with the Great and Little Osages north of the White river; with the tribes in the state of Indiana; with the several tribes within the state of Ohio and the Michigan Territory, and with the Chickasaws; by which very extensive cessions of territory have been made to the United States. Negotiations are now depending with the tribe in the Illinois territory, and with the Choctaws, by which is expected that other extensive cessions will be made. I take great interest in stating that the cessions already made, which are considered so important to the United States, have been obtained on conditions very satisfactory to the Indians.

With a view to the security of our inland frontiers, it has been thought expedient to establish strong posts at the mouth of the Yellow Stone river, and at the Mandan village, on the Missouri; and at the mouth of St. Peters, on the Mississippi, at no great distance from our northern boundaries. It can hardly be presumed, while such posts are maintained in the rear of the Indian tribes, that they will venture to attack our peaceable inhabitants. A strong hope is entertained that this measure will likewise be productive of much good to the tribes themselves — especially in promoting the great object of their civilization. Experience has clearly demonstrated, that independent savage communities cannot long exist within the limits of a civilized population. The progress of the latter has, almost invariably, terminated in the extinction of the former, especially of the tribes belonging to our portion of this hemisphere, among whom loftiness of sentiment, and gallantry in action, have been conspicuous. To civilize them, and even to prevent their extinction, it seems to be indispensible that their independence, as communities, should cease, and that the control of the United States over them should be complete and undisputed. The hunter state will then be more easily abandoned, and recourse will be had to the acquisition and culture of land, and to other pursuits tending to dissolve the ties which connect them together as a savage community, and to give a new character to every individual. I present this subject to the consideration of Congress, on the presumption that it may be found expedient and practicable to adopt some benevolent provisions, having these objects in view, relative to the tribes within our settlements.

It has been necessary, during the present year, to maintain a strong naval force in the Mediterranean, and in the Gulf of Mexico, and to send some public ships along the southern coast, and to the Pacific Ocean. By these means a friendly intercourse with the Barbary powers have been preserved, and our commerce has been protected, and our rights respected. The augmentation of our navy is advancing with a steady progress, towards the limit contemplated by law.

I communicate with great satisfaction, the accession of another state, Illinois, to our Union; because I perceive, from the proof afforded by the additions already made, the rapid progress and sure consummation of a policy to which history affords no example, and of which the good effect cannot be too highly estimated. By extending our government, on the principles of our constitution, over the vast territory within our limits, on the Lakes and Mississippi, and its numerous streams, new life and vigor are infused into every part of our system. By increasing the number of the states the confidence of the state governments in their own security is encreased, and their jealousy of the national government proportionably diminished. The impracticability of one consolidated government for this great and growing nation, will be more apparent, and will be universally admitted. Incapable of exercising local authority, except for general purposes, the general government will no longer be dreaded. In those cases of a local nature, and for all the great purposes for which it was instituted, its authority will be cherished. Each government will acquire new force and a greater freedom of action, within its proper sphere. Other inestimable advantages will follow: our produce will be augmented to an incalculable amount: articles of the greatest value for domestic use and foreign commerce. Our navigation will in like degree, be encreased; and, as the shipping of the Atlantic states will be employed in the transportion of the vast produce of the western country, even those parts of the United States which are the most remote from each other will be further bound together by the strongest ties which mutual interest can create.

The situation of this District, it is thought, requires the attention of Congress. By the Constitution, the power of legislation is exclusively vested in the Congress of the United States. In the exercise of this power, in which the people have no participation, Congress legislate in all cases, directly, on the local concerns of the district. As this is a department for a special purpose, from the general principles of our system, it may merit consideration whether an arrangement better adapted to the principles of our government and to the particular interest of the people may not be devised which will neither infringe the constitution, nor affect the object which the provision in question was intended to secure. The growing population, already considerable, and the increasing business of the District, which it is believed already interferes with the deliberations of Congress on great national concerns, furnish additional motives for recommending this subject to your consideration.

When we view the great blessings with which our country has been favored, those which we now enjoy, and the means which we possess of handing them down, unimpaired, to our latest posterity, our attention is irresistibly drawn to the source from whence they flow. Let us then unite in offering our most grateful acknowledgements for these blessings to the Divine Author of all good.

JAMMES MONROE.

November 17, 1818.

STATE LEGISLATURE.

Friday, November 20, 1818.

Reference of the Governor's Message, No. 1.— So much as relates to PUBLIC EDUCATION, to Messrs. Martin, Brownrigg and Raybourn, of the Senate; and Messrs. Sanders, Caldwell and Mangum, of the Commons.

No. 2. So much as relates to the *Judiciary*, to Messrs. Gaston, Wilbourne and Benton, of the Senate; and Messrs. Stanly, Love and R. R. Jones, of the Commons.

No. 3. So much as relates to *Internal Improvement*, to Messrs. Murphey, Daniel Jones and Davidson, of the Senate; and Messrs. Mebane, Winslow and King, of the Commons.

No. 4. So much as relates to the *Criminal Code*, to Messrs. Conner, Grisson and Steed, of the Senate; and Messrs. V. Allen, Scott and Paifer, of the Commons.

No. 5. So much as relates to the *Militia Laws*, to Messrs. Atkinson, Felton and Dobson, of the Senate; and Messrs. Brown, J. Beard and L. L. D. Wilson of the Commons.

No. 6. So much as relates to *amendments of the Constitution of the United States*, to Messrs. Phifer, Fisher and Alston, of the Senate; and Messrs. Black, Fraser and Hulme, of the Commons.

No. 7. So much as relates to the *Resolution of the State Bank of North Carolina*, to open books, &c. to Messrs. Murphey, Haywood and Calloway, of the Senate; and Messrs. Dickins, M'Nairy and Brevard, of the Commons.

Mr. Holmeser presented a bill for the division of Rowan and Currituck counties, and a bill to incorporate the town of Clinton, and to appoint Commissioners for said town.—Read the first time.

Received from the Senate a bill to amend an act passed in 1812 relative to the power of Courts of Equity in cases of partition.—Read the first time and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Mebane presented a bill to regulate and change the mode of appointing patrols in the several counties of this State—Referred to Messrs. R. H. Jones, Wilson and Montgomery.

Received from the Senate a bill to authorise the cutting a canal from Currituck Sound to North river in Currituck County—Read and referred.

A number of private petitions were presented—Read and referred and the House adjourned.

Saturday, Nov. 21.

Mr. Boulbee presented a bill to amend an act to incorporate a company to make a turnpike road from Pungo river to Pamptecough.

Mr. Winslow presented a bill to authorise the Commissioners of Fayetteville to raise money for opening part of the road from Fayetteville to Mangunton—Also, a petition from the Merchants of Fayetteville, praying for the repeal of the law establishing a Flour Ware House in said town—Referred.

On motion of Mr. Mebane, *Resolved*, That the Treasurer confer with the President and Directors of the State Bank, and ascertain whether the State may not subscribe for stock in said Bank, without being subject to be sealed as proposed by the late resolution of their board, &c.

Received a message from the Senate proposing to appoint a select joint committee to receive the votes for the suppression of vice and immorality—which was agreed to. The committee consists of Messrs. Hall and Jones, on the part of the Senate; and Messrs. King, Haywood and Hunter, of the Commons.

Monday, Nov. 23.

By consent of both Houses, the committee of Propositions and Grievances were discharged from the further consideration of petitions which relate to the alteration of names and legitimating children, 4 or 5 of which had been presented to them.

Received from John Haywood, Public Treasurer, a communication, stating the refusal of the State Bank Directors to permit the State to take shares without being subject to be sealed.

Received from the Senate, a resolution that the Members of the General Assembly assist the Treasurer in obtaining shares in the State Bank, &c.—which was read, and on motion of Mr. Stanly, rejected.

The bill for the division of Rowan and Currituck counties was read the second time and rejected.

A bill to increase the fees of the Constables of Bertie county, was reported and read the first time.

Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Mr. Jordan presented a bill to amend the Militia Laws of this State—Read and referred.

Five petitions for seperate elections were read and referred.

A report from the committee of Privileges and Elections, was received, on the case referred to them, of Miles Allen, the Member returned from Ashe, whose seat had been contested. The House confirmed the report, and ordered an election to be held on the 10th of next month to supply the vacancy.

Received from the Senate, a bill giving the Superior Courts the exclusive power of emancipating slaves—Read the first time.

Mr. Hawkins presented the petition of James Seawell, praying authority to erect a Bridge across Cape-Fear river near Fayetteville; and a bill for the purpose, passed its first reading.

Received from the Senate, a bill to raise the fees of Solicitors of the Superior Courts—Referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Received from the Senate, a bill directing a road to be laid out from Milton to the South Carolina line, in the direction to Augusta, in Georgia—Referred.

A bill to incorporate the Clinton Toll Bridge Company, passed its first reading.

A joint committee is appointed to take into consideration, the expediency of electing Sheriff's by the people.

Wednesday, November 19.

Mr. Leigh presented a bill to regulate the fisheries on Scuppernong river, little Alligator and Flying Pan creeks, and on great Alligator river, &c—Read the first time.

A bill securing to James Seawell the right of navigating Cape Fear River between the towns of Fayetteville and Wilmington by steam, passed its first reading.

Mr. Caldwell presented a bill to repeal that part of the act of 1814, concerning Divorce and Alimony, as requires the sanction of the Legislature to the decree of the Superior Courts.

The bill to authorise the cutting a Canal from Currituck Sound, passed its third and last reading, and was ordered to be engrossed.

Received from the Senate a bill to repeal an act passed in 1817, to alter the mode of punishing the crime of horse stealing—Read and referred.