

There is one kind of business, in practice here at present, which it would I conceive, be better to touch to than to supply. Many American vessels are said to have arrived here, with provisions, &c. in a day or two their papers are changed by a pretended sale, and they go off for a French port, in some instances without shifting or discharging their cargoes—return here with French produce, resume their American papers, and clear from this for home. I shall endeavour to ascertain and identify some of the actors in this nefarious business, and give you information.

I am now, at 11 of Feb. having completed my store of water, and got ballast sufficient, I hope, for the present cruise, I was about to proceed to sea yesterday morning, when I received application from the owners or masters of eight American vessels, (who would be ready to sail this day) to wait and convoy them through the passage to leeward of this island, fearing lest the French privateer, which sailed hence a few days past should be there laying wait for them—Conceiving it my duty to afford them the protection required I detained the Ganges till this day and I was farther induced thereto in hope of recovering the Armourer & Armourers mate and 2 marines, viz. Christopher Weldon and Thomas Brown, who deserted the night before last, but I have not been fortunate enough to find them, nor have I obtained but two seamen at this port.

I am now about to get under way, with the homeward bound vessels, which I mean to attend clear of the Islands, and proceed as before intimated.

I have the honour to be with great respect,

Sir, your obt. servant,  
THOMAS TINGEY.

Hon. Benjamin Stoddert.

(COPY, No. II.)

United States ship of war Ganges, off Cape Francois, 5th Jan. 1799.

SIR,

The polite attention, and friendly treatment, I have experienced from Edward F. Smith, esq. on falling in with his Britannic majesty's ship Hannibal of your squadron—and receiving communication from capt. Smith, of your particular orders for the observance of similar treatment by all the commanders of the ships of your fleet, which may fall in with those of the United States—I feel it incumbent on me first, to offer you my highest acknowledgments, and to assure you I shall embrace the earliest opportunity for transmitting an account thereof, to the minister of the navy, for the information of the president of the United States, who will certainly receive it with estimation—I can only add, sir, that it will be highly gratifying to me (during the short period of my stay in these seas) if opportunity shall present, to reciprocate by due attention to any of his British majesty's ships or vessels, their officers or crews, or to any of those of his trading subjects.

His excellency Sir Hyde Parker, Vice-Admiral of the Red, and commander in chief of his British majesty's forces, Jamaica.

I have the honour to be, &c. &c.  
THOMAS TINGEY.

## CONGRESS.

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 20.

Mr. Lyon from Vermont, took his seat in the house this day.

The house took up the report of the committee of the whole on the bill for encouraging the capture of French privateers, by allowing a bounty on guns, and the motion being to concur in the agreement of the committee to strike out the first section of the bill, after a long debate, the question was taken by yeas and nays.

YEAS 52—NAYS 48.

The second section was then amended, by adding to it the usual enacting clause but after some observations against passing it, by Mr. Sewall, since the first section had been struck out, on the motion for its going to a third reading, it was negatived.

Mr. Bayard proposed the following resolution to the house:

“Resolved, That Matthew Lyon, a member of this house, having been

convicted of being a notorious and detestable wicked and diabolical disposition and of wickedly, deceitfully, and maliciously contriving to defame the government of the U. States, and of having with intent and design to defame the government of the U. States, and John Adams, president of the U. States, and to bring the said government and President into contempt and disrepute, and with intent and design to excite against the said government and President, the hatred of the good people of the United States, and to stir up sedition in the United States, wickedly, knowingly, and maliciously written and published certain scandalous and detestable writings or libels, be therefore expelled this house.”

Mr. B. said, he had only to remark that this resolution is copied from the record of the trial, which he had in his possession.

Mr. Nicholas said, if this had been a candid statement of the business, he should have been willing to have come to an immediate vote upon it; but words are introduced into this resolution which are words of course in every indictment, which do not particularly belong to this offence, and the truth of which is never enquired into upon a trial. As he wished the nature of the offence to be clearly stated, he hoped the motion would lie on the table for the present.

Mr. Bayard observed, he had already said, the terms used are copied from the record itself, and he did not think the gentlemen from Virginia had been wiser than the law. He had himself no doubt that all the charges in the record are pertinent to the subject; if not, it would be extremely improper to introduce them. They are charges upon which a jury of the country have decided.

Mr. Nicholas appealed to the gentleman from Delaware, and to all other gentlemen of the law, who heard him, whether the words here used, are not the mere form of the indictment, and unconnected with the act here charged. He moved to adjourn, which motion was carried without a division.

February 21.

Mr. Goodrich, from the committee to whom was referred the several petitions, which have been preferred during the session, for the repeal of the alien and sedition laws, made a long report on this subject, shewing [or attempting to shew] the constitutionality of these laws, and the propriety of keeping them in force. The report concludes with three resolutions declaring it inexpedient to repeal the alien law, sedition law, or any of the laws relative to the military or naval establishments of the United States. The report was committed for Monday, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Gallatin presented a petition from 755 inhabitants of the county of Chester, and another from 73 inhabitants of Washington county, both in the state of Pennsylvania, praying for a repeal of the alien and sedition laws.

Mr. Brown presented a petition and remonstrance of the same nature, from 1940 of Montgomery county, and from 1100 inhabitants of Northampton county, both in the state of Pennsylvania.

Mr. McClenahan presented a petition of the same kind, from 587 inhabitants of the Northern Liberties of this city.

These petitions were referred to the committee of the whole to whom was this morning referred, the report of a select committee on this subject.

On motion of Mr. Josiah Parker, the house took up the amendments of the senate to the bill authorizing the purchase of timber for naval purposes. The amendments proposed to strike out the appropriation of 100,000 dollars, and insert 200,000 dollars in its place, authorizing also the money to be laid out on land upon which timber is growing, as well as upon timber.

After some debate, in which these amendments were supported by Mr. J. Parker and Mr. Pinckney, and opposed by Messrs. Nicholas, J. Williams, Gallatin and M'Dowell, the amendments were concurred in, 50 to

Mr. Varnum laid a resolution upon the table to the following effect.

“Resolved, that the president of the United States be authorized and empowered to call upon the executives of the several states, to take effectual measures as soon as may be, to organize and hold in readiness to march, on the shortest notice, 80,000 militia, including officers, to be proportioned according to the number of white male inhabitants in each state respectively; which detachment of militia be officered out of the present militia officers.”

Mr. V. said, that at the extraordinary session, a law passed directing 80,000 militia to be held in readiness, which law expires with the present session. These 80,000 men, Mr. V. said, had been the only effective force of any consequence which we have possessed during that time; for though laws had been passed for augmenting our army, the object has not been effected; and as he had great confidence in the defence of militia of the country he should with this number of men to be held in readiness, until our disputes with France are completely settled. He should not think it late in our present situation, to relinquish this force.

Ordered to lie on the table.

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house went into a committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1799; and, after going thro' the same, the house took up the amendments and agreed to them.—The bill was then ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house went into a committee of the whole, on the bill making appropriations for defraying the expence which may arise in carrying into effect certain treaties between the U. States and several tribes or nations of Indians.

February 22.

Mr. Bard presented several petitions and remonstrances from 1487 inhabitants of the county of Franklin in Pennsylvania, praying for the repeal of the Alien and Sedition law; which having been read,

Mr. Bard moved to have this petition referred as usual.

The reference was carried, there being 55 votes for it.

Mr. Gallatin presented petitions from 678 inhabitants of Chester county praying for the repeal of the Alien and Sedition laws in the same words with those presented yesterday.—Referred.

The following bills were read the third time and passed, viz.

A bill allowing to James Mathers a compensation for services as sergeant at Arms to the Senate; a bill making appropriations for expences which may arise in carrying into effect certain treaties with Indian tribes or nations of Indians; and a bill to grant additional compensation for the year 1799, to certain officers of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America.

On motion of Mr. Harper, the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for the support of military establishments for the year 1799; and, after filling the blanks of the bill, the committee rose, and the house having concurred in the amendments, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

On motion of Mr. Josiah Parker the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill for the government of the navy of the United States; and, after going through the same the committee rose and the amendments being concurred in, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Bayard called up the resolution which he laid upon the table on Wednesday, proposing the expulsion of Mr. Lyon his seat as member of this house. After delivering and exemplification of the record to the clerk, which was read Mr. Bayard spoke at considerable length in the support of the resolution, it was opposed by Messrs. Nicholas and Gallatin. Mr. Lyon also said a few words with respect to the manner in which his trial had been conducted,

and was replied to by Mr. Allen. At length the question was taken by yeas and nays as follows:

### YEAS.

Mess. Allen	Imlay
Bartlet	Kittera
Bayard	Lyman
Brace	Muchir
Brooks	Matthews
Champlin	Morris
Chapman	Otis
Cochran	J. Parker
Craig	J. Parker
Dana	Pinckney
Dennis	Rutledge
Edmond	Schureman
Evans	Sewall
A. Foster	Sheppard
D. Foster	Sinnickson
J. Freeman	Sprague
Glen	N. Smith
Goodrich	Thatcher
Gordon	Thomas
Grifswold	Thomson
Grove	Tillinghast
Harper	Van Allen
Harley	Walp
Hindman	J. Williams
Hosmer	

### NAYS.

Mess. Baer	Fleister
Baldwin	Holmes
Bard	Jones
Brown	Livingston
Cabell	Locke
T. Claiborne	Macon
W. Claiborne	M'Clenahan
Clay	M'Dowell
Clopton	New
Davis	Nicholas
Dawson	Skinner
Dent	S. Smith
Eggleston	W. Smith
Elmendorf	Sprigg
Findley	Stanford
Fowler	Sumter
N. Freeman	A. Trigg
Gallatin	J. Trigg
Gillespie	Van Cortland
Gregg	Varnum
Hanna	Venable
Harrison	R. Williams
Havens	

The speaker declaring the state of the vote, said, “the constitution requiring two thirds of the members present to expel a member, the motion is not carried.”

Adjourned at near 5 o'clock.

From a London paper of Dec. 17.

General Simcoe has taken leave of his majesty, and had sailed in the Janus frigate, to take upon himself the government of St. Domingo.

The Navy Board has purchased the hulls of the following prizes taken by Lord Nelson, at the sum of 117,000l. viz. the Franklin and Tonnant, of 80 guns; the Aquilon, Conquerat, and Souverain Peuple, of 74 guns. The two last ships were only valued at 5000l. each, the Franklin at 30,000l.

The terms of the new Loan, are finally settled.—Mr. Boldero, for the bankers, being the successful bidder, the Minister contracted with him for 3,000,000l.

When General Pichegru visited the House of Lords, a few days ago, he was thus curiously situated—on one side of him stood the Stadtholder, whom he drove out of Holland, and on the other the Duke of York, whom he compelled to retreat from Tournay to Bruges.

The total of the produce of the Customs, Excise, Stamps, and incidents, for the last year, ending the 10th of last October, is 20,570,621l. 9s. 2d.

When Mr. Gerry, after leaving France, came to Spithead, he attempted to land at Portsmouth, but was refused permission, till an order from the Duke of Portland should come down for that purpose. Mr. Gerry having made known his character, was so displeased at the refusal, that when the order did arrive, he would not leave the ship. The Duke of Portland, and Mr. King, the American Minister, did all in their power to explain away the mistake, and prevail on him to come to London, but in vain.

HARWICH, December 6.

Arrived an American ship from South Bergen. She brings an account of 13