

dered by an act of the last session.—They also find, that of the former appropriation for that object, amounting to 1,000,000 of dollars, there remained, at the beginning of this year, an unexpended balance of 700,000 dollars. It appearing doubtful whether it will be expedient to hasten the building of those ships, so much as to require, for the present year, an expenditure beyond the amount of that balance, and consequently, whether the good of the service will require any additional appropriation for that object at this time; I have the honor of requesting that you will be so good as to furnish me, for the use of the Committee with your opinion at that point. I am persuaded that it would be gratifying to the Committee to be favoured, also with a statement of the facts and reasons whereon that opinion may be founded.

I have the honor to be, with sentiments of very high respect, Sir, your most obedient very humble servant,
(Signed,) ROBERT G. HARPER.
The Hon. the Secretary of the Navy.
(No. 8.)
Navy Department, 8th Feb. 1800.

SIR,
THE live oak frames for the six 74 gun ships, will cost delivered at the building places, 300,000 dollars: The other timber cost 180,000 dollars. The necessary preparations at each yard, for building not only these, but ships that may be hereafter authorized, securing the timber for seasoning, purchasing sufficient ground for capacious building yards, where the timber can be deposited in order, so as to avoid considerable expense in piling and unloading to get at the particular pieces wanted, will cost 200,000, making 680,000 dollars.

The greater part of these expenses are already incurred, and the whole must be incurred early in the spring. This amount added to the cost of the six small vessels to be built out of the appropriation of one million of dollars, being 300,000 dollars, will absorb nearly the million of dollars appropriated for these objects. The sums which have been advanced, and must be advanced for copper, will amount to more than the difference, but there may be a saving in the expense of preparing the yards.

It is for the wisdom of Congress to determine, whether we shall stop here or go on rapidly, in building the six 74 gun ships. In the latter case, 600,000 dollars, will be wanted for these ships in the present year. But if we may safely wait until the timber for the ships is properly seasoned, they will be infinitely better and more durable by many years, than if they are now built with timber cut from the woods only in the present winter, and consequently in a very green state—and if we can so wait, this 600,000 dollars will not be wanted for the present year.

If we stop here, we shall always be in a situation to lay the keels, and to proceed with such rapidity in building the ships, as to afford ground to hope that they may be sent to sea, in less than a year from the commencement of the building.

I have the honor to be, with real respect, Sir, your most obedient servant.
BENJAMIN STODDERT.
Hon. R. G. Harper, Chairman of the }
Committee of Ways and Means. }

The resolution contained in the report was agreed to without amendment; ayes 50; and the Committee of Ways and Means instructed to report a bill accordingly.

RALEIGH, MARCH 18, 1800.

The following detached sentences from the Oration of Mr. Purviance, delivered at Fayetteville, on the 22d ult. will give the public some idea of that gentleman's style and manner.

"The talk of celebrating the actions of other men has not generally been difficult; they have usually been deserving of praise, on account of some few commendatory qualities, or some few remarkable achievements. The historian of Europe who sketches the portrait of his dead monarch, soon finishes the picture: perhaps he remembers that he was just, but convinced also that he was merciful, he suffers the half-finished image to sink from his hands. Perhaps he has recorded that he was brave, but recollecting also that he was cruel, he hastily closes the description. The front of the building is smooth and elegant, he therefore paints that side alone, and thus presents the partial landscape to the public eye. He will not however describe any of the other angles, lest his pencil should be compelled to disclose a rotten pillar, or a crumbling arch. But the noble edifice which is now attempted to be drawn, is not of that description; each side presents a new and glorious spectacle; a boundless variety of beauty is scattered over the stupendous dome, and salutes the eye at every glance; innumerable excellencies rush on the sight and claim to be the first portrayed. The hand of the artist is not arrested by the fear of disclosing a defect, but by an apprehension that he is unable to delineate such an assemblage of perfection. He has not to consider at what angle he is to stop, he is only perplexed to discover at what feature of variegated excellence he shall first commence.

"There was a time when the United States of America did not rank among the free nations of the earth; when this immense country was the tributary

and the vassal of a foreign power. The yoke of bondage was considered as slavish and humiliating, and was felt to be impolitic and oppressive; our commerce our manufacture and our revenues were controuled and limited; the ships of our merchants were obliged to cling to our shores, until their destination was permitted and directed by a foreign court, and the fountains of our revenues were ordered to be turned into a foreign channel. The genius of Liberty lighted up a spark of heaven-born freedom in the American breast; it grew into a flame which spread from one end of the continent to the other; but there was no chief to direct its operations, or to stimulate its exertions. There was however a farmer in a neighbouring state, whose valour in days of old had before been witnessed, and was now recollected with joy. He had hung up his sword, and was cultivating under the shade of his laurels, the mild arts of peace. Our fathers saw him on the heights of Mount Vernon, tending his flocks and his fields; "the finger of Heaven pointed to the spot;" he was called down with a clamorous voice to unfurl the standard of freedom, and with modest duty he obeyed the call. Ten thousand heroes rushed to the place, and rallied round the glorious chief. Liberty wiped away the tear which was starting in her eye, and the "saddened faces" of her sons as brightened into joy.

"I will not detain you with a tedious detail of the various misfortunes and the various successes of his military career. It is sufficient to say, that owing to the numberless difficulties which he had to encounter, a cloud hung over the early operations of his arms, but by his attention and by his skill, that cloud was soon dispersed, and the sunshine of liberty burst with dazzling splendour on our western world. He wrested the blood sprinkled sceptre from the gripe of majesty, and threw it again across the Atlantic ocean; the manacles of slavery crumbled into ashes at his touch—and the lofty American freed from the shackles of oppression, raised once more his pensive head, and walked at large with all the dignity of free-born man.

"When at length he had restored us to peace and freedom, he resigned his command, but to his eternal honour refused to receive any compensation for his service, for he was content in his country's cause freely to subject his life to peril, his fortunes to jeopardy, and his constitution to decay. But his term of duty had not yet expired—the United States thought proper to cement their interests by a more intimate confederation than had before existed; our present constitution was formed, and by the unanimous suffrage of his country he was once more torn from the enjoyment of social life, and called to discharge the office of first magistrate of the Union. He here shone with equal brilliancy in the character of a statesman; he formed on an economical plan, the arrangement of business under the new establishment; he secured by treaties, the peace which he had obtained by his sword. Commerce again hoisted her canvas to the gale, and each ocean was spangled with the stars of our flag. The cheerful husbandman again whistled at the plough, and wherever a town had been destroyed by the fires of war, a city had arisen from its ashes.

"At length he rose from the presidential chair, and retired once more to the walks of private life, followed by the blessings and the thanks of a grateful people, and possessed of the virtuous consciousness of having deserved them.

"He will return no more to assist us with his counsel, or to protect us with his arms. The hand which saved his country, lies motionless in death; the eye which flashed terror on her foes is closed in night, and a cold clod rests on the bosom which once warmly panted for his country's honour. . . . But his reputation shall never die, as long as virtue remains alive. Ages yet unborn shall tell his worth to ages which succeed them, and when the hand of time shall have rubbed out the memorials which gratitude shall inscribe, America itself will remain his monument, for as long as our country survives, the man who placed its name among the catalogue of nations can never be forgotten. The verdure of other laurels may fade and die, but the lustre of our immortal chief shall continue to glow with increasing splendour. The sand which is gathered by one flood is scattered by another, "but the rock always continues in its place;" and the stream of oblivion which is continually washing away the dissoluble fabrics of other heroes, shall roll without injury over the adamant of OUR WASHINGTON."

THE AMERICAN ENVOYS

Have arrived at Lisbon. This agreeable information was brought by Capt. Macher, who arrived here on Saturday last from Cadiz. The intelligence was received at that place by letters from Lisbon, dated the beginning of December.

[Boston Paper.]

In Senate of the United States,

February 26, 1800.

A motion was made that it be Resolved, That a committee of privileges be, and they are hereby directed to enquire, who is the editor of the news paper printed in the city of Philadelphia, called the General Advertiser, or Aurora, and by what means the editor became possessed of the copy of a bill prescribing the mode of deciding disputed elections of President and Vice-President of the United States, which was printed in the aforesaid news-

paper, published Wednesday morning, the 19th February inst. and by what authority he published the same; and by what authority the editor published in the same paper, that the honorable Mr. Pinckney a senator from South Carolina, and a member of the committee who brought before the senate the bill aforesaid, had never been consulted on the subject; and generally enquire the origin of sundry assertions in the same paper, respecting the senate of the United States, and the members thereof in their official capacity, and why the same were published, and make report to the senate; and that the said committee have power to send for persons, papers and records, relating to the subject committed to them.

Counterfeit Bank-Bills.

From an Alexandria paper of the 25th ult.

Yesterday two men were apprehended for having passed a number of counterfeit 50 and 100 dollar bills of the bank of the United States. On their examination, it was proved that they, a few days since, arrived at this port in the schooner Two Brothers, from New Orleans: and from evidence it appeared, that vast quantities of counterfeit notes of the above description were in general circulation at that place.

To the Freemen of the Counties of

Orange, Randolph, Guilford and Caswell:
Fellow-Citizens,

THE time for which the President and Vice-President of the United States were elected to office, will expire in March ensuing, and in November next, Electors will be chosen by the People to fix on Men proper to fill those important stations for the ensuing four years.

Europe, within but a very few years past, has exhibited to the world a series of revolutions and political convulsions the most awful and astonishing! Desolation appears to have spread its terrors on every side, in that devoted quarter of the globe, and millions of the human race have perished in the struggle.

During all these dreadful changes, America has maintained her internal tranquillity, and though her commerce has been injured by the rapacious violence of the nations at war, yet has she for the most part enjoyed the blessings of Peace, and her citizens that Security and Happiness which can be found only in the land where Liberty is the object of the Constitution, and the Laws are faithfully administered.

For my own part, I cannot help attributing this Peace, Security and Happiness which our country now enjoys, (next to Divine Providence) to the wise, firm, and patriotic measures which our government, under the administration of WASHINGTON and ADAMS, has adopted and pursued in these critical times.

Deeply impressed with these considerations, and seriously apprehensive of the consequences which might result from the introduction of opposite councils; I most ardently wish to see men of the same political principles continued in office, and being aware of the strong opposition which has been made, and is still to be expected to the election of such men, and to the very measures, which in my opinion have promoted our prosperity and strengthened our union—I have presumed to offer myself a candidate for the office of Elector for this district. I feel myself the more emboldened to do so, since no conspicuous talent of mind are requisite in fulfilling its duties; no other qualifications being necessary, as I conceive in the Man who shall be so appointed, but to be possessed of a proper sense of the value of liberty, a due regard for the real interests of our country, a strict adherence to its constitutional principles, and a firm determination to vote for such men only to fill the offices of President and Vice-President, whose characters, for ability, virtue and patriotism, are established and unquestionable.

Such, my fellow-citizens, are my sentiments on this important subject—If they meet with your approbation, I will hope for your support.

WALTER ALVES.

Orange County March 12th 1800.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE subscriber begs leave to inform the public in general, and his friends in particular, that he has taken that large and commodious house in Green-street, just above the well known ancient dwelling of Robert Cochran, Esq. where he intends to establish himself for the reception of such genteel boarders and travellers as may honor him with their company.—His accommodations being equal to any in the place, and being determined to use every exertion to give satisfaction, he flatters himself to merit the encouragement of the public.

WILLIAM DICK.

Fayetteville March, 10th 1800.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Subscriber proposes removing from this place to Nashville, in the month of May next, where he will reside as a Lawyer.—In that capacity, and as agent for western lands, he offers his services to his friends in this State, and to the Public. Letters, post-paid, directed to him at Lumberton until the first of May, and after that time to Nashville, in Tennessee, will be attended to with punctuality.

DAVID KER.

Lumberton, February 18, 1800.