

ed by a sheerback, of 20 guns, belonging to this place, who after coming within musket shot, kept up a constant firing with small arms until they manned our yards from theirs, then the firing ceased, and they came down sword in hand, spared our lives but nothing else, having stripped us of the clothes we had on, and put us on board the zebecs, which brought us to this place the 30th ult. when we were taken before the Dey, from thence to the Bayon, where the slave are kept locked up at night; next day we were all sent to the marine, and kept at hard labour from day light to dark, with an iron chain which reaches from our legs to our hips, about 50lb. weight, and treated with great severity by our masters, who allow us nothing but bread and water for our subsistence. The wheel-barrow men in your city I ved a genteel life to what we do. Our situation is truly shocking, and how long we can exist God only knows. The carpenter, John M'Farlane, a Scotchman, was taken out of the marine by the British Consul; the sail-maker, John Forgeaux, and two Spaniards, G. Romeo and B. Gazona, were sold at public auction. On the evening of the same I arrived here, the following masters with their crews were brought in: Captain Wallace, Virginia; Newman, Boston; Taylor, Rhode-Island; Furnace, New-Hampshire; Calder, Gloucester; Burnham, New-York; Bailey and Mols, Newbury; Penrose, Philadelphia. The whole number of Americans is between 120 and 130; they treat the Dutch in the same manner they do us. Captains O'Brian and Stephens, with their crews, are here, 10 of them are living, the rest dead. If their small number could not be redeemed, we have no hopes of relief, therefore endeavor to make ourselves as happy as possible: They ask for my ransom 4000 dollars, first and second mate, 3000 dollars each, and for each man 150 dollars. If a peace is not made, or our ships protected, we may expect to increase daily, as we are all employed in the marine department, fitting out cruisers. I have not yet learned their force, but as there is no check on them, no American will be able to go to Europe in safety. A courier is arrived from Alicant, informing the Dey that Colonel Humphreys is there with full power from Congress to make a peace, and waits his permission to come; but the Dey, I am informed, had refused him. I remain your humble servant.

*Names of the crew on board of the ship Minerva.*

John M'Shane, Master; Andrew Tullock 1st Mate; Samuel Milburne, 2d Mate; John M'Farlane, carpenter; John Fogererux, sailmaker; Abel Willis, cook—Seamen, Joseph Rogers, William Brown, Thomas Burdon, William Walker, William Grafton, Giani Romeo, Barrotami Gazona, John Sutton, Edward Kerr, Joseph Lutz.

**C O N G R E S S**  
OF THE UNITED STATES.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
MONDAY, March 10.

Mr. Parker presented the resolutions of several towns and counties in the state of Virginia, relative to the measures now pending before Congress respecting commerce—the general import of which were in favor of the principles contained in Mr. Madison's Resolutions—These were read and laid on the table.

The bill for fortifying the ports and harbors of the United States was reported, read twice, and committed for to-morrow.

The bill providing a naval armament for the protection of the commerce of the United States, was brought in engrossed and read.

A motion was made to recommit it to the committee of the whole house.

This motion was principally supported on the ground of the select committee's having deviated from the report of the committee of the whole—which report connected the ways and means of defraying the expence of the armament with the details of the armament, where the bill contains no such estimate—for the sake thereof of order and regularity in conducting the public bu-

ness it was said it was proper to agree to the motion—it was further observed, that no injury could possibly result from a short delay, equal to what would be the consequence of sanctioning such a flagrant deviation on the part of the select committee from the established rules of the house—That it was quite a new thing to drive a business of such magnitude with such impetuosity thro' the house.

In opposition to the motion it was ironically observed, that as the carrying trade, and the trade to the mediterranean were of so trifling importance it was really surprising that the business of providing a protection for the commerce of this country, exposed at this moment to the depredation of the Algerines, should be hurried with so much impetuosity, thro' the house—three months have already elapsed, great part of which this subject has been under consideration—to steer clear therefore of impetuosity in conducting the business, 3 months more ought to be suffered to pass before any thing is done—

With respect to the conduct of the select committee it was said that in the first discussion of the subject the report was objected to, on account of the ways and means of being connected with it—to remove this objection the bill was reported in the form before the house.

The motion being put for recommitting—it passed in the negative, 48 to 41.

The house then proceeded to fill up the blanks—In the course of filling up the blanks the opposition to the bill was revived on old and new grounds—the first were on account of its incompetency to the object—considering the resources of the Algerines—and the superior policy of having recourse to negotiation, and purchase of a peace, the new ground was derived from recent confidential communications, from which it was inferred that the eligibility of the mode of procuring a peace by purchase, was greatly strengthened. From this view of the subject, a transition was made to the subject of navies generally—in which the bad consequences connected with their establishment were depicted in animated terms—The blanks were at length filled, and on the question shall the bill pass?—it was carried in the affirmative. Ayes 50—Noes 39.

March 12.

The bill for providing for the expences of the war department for 1794 was taken up in committee of the whole and reported without amendments.

The bill for fortifying our harbours was taken up the blanks filled and passed.

A message was received from the Senate communicating a resolution requesting the President of the United States to transmit to the executives of the several states copies of the amendment proposed to the constitution. Concurred.

A report was made in favour of a diminution of the duty, on the importation of bar iron under certain restrictions.

The house went into committee on that part of the President's speech which relates to arsenals and magazines, considered the report of their select committee and reported. The house agreed to the principles contained in that report and appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

Adjourned.

March 13.

A bill for the building of magazines, arsenals and for other purposes was reported and twice read.

A bill came down from the Senate, supplementary to a bill providing for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States.

The house went into committee on Mr. Madison's resolutions. The late depredation of the British on our commerce has changed in a degree the nature of the question and complexion of the debates. The resolutions are now opposed as too weak for our present exigences. A motion was early made to amend the resolutions by specifying Great-Britain as the object of them and was carried by a considerable majority. No other question was taken except on postponing the resolutions generally, which was lost. The subject will probably be resumed to-morrow. Adjourned.

March 14.

The bill from the Senate supplementary to the act providing for the punishment of certain crimes against the United States, was twice read.

The President has approved the bill making appropriations for 1794. The Senate has concurred the bill authorising a loan of one million.

It was moved to take up immediately that part of the resolutions offered a few days since, which relates to empowering the President to lay an embargo if he should deem such a measure necessary; the motion was lost, owing to the wish of a majority to pursue the subject of Mr. Madison's resolutions and give them a decision.

The house then went into a committee on these resolutions. Mr. Hartley first rose and spoke as follows.

I am exceedingly sorry that this Resolution has been pressed upon us at this time—as I hold it would be improper now to adopt it. If we have a war the trade will be cut off between the States and Great-Britain—and no regulations will be necessary—I am sure no one will say that this resolution in case of war would be a useful or necessary ingredient for our defence.

The aggressions have been so far totally on the part of Great-Britain.

As a nation we may have a right to pass the resolution, but as its consequences are uncertain and as this may be considered as an act tending to meet Great-Britain in hostility I am not for passing it at present.

The enormities of the British lately upon the High Seas in seizing the vessels and Citizens of America amount to Piracy and Robbery and are against the Law of Nations. They would justify an immediate declaration of war. Prudence may however forbid it for the moment.

We should go on with our preparations for War and fall upon effectual measures for our Protection—These ought to draw our attention.

There is still a possibility of preserving Peace: we should adhere to a neutrality until War arise from Great Britain; let us do no act which will throw an imputation upon us.

If the aggressions on the part of Great-Britain should be continued, or satisfaction not be made for the past, we may be unnecessarily involved in War, and we ought to be thinking of the most effectual means to carry it on.

The French Republic expresses herself friendly to the United States; we should not be backward in making return for any of her good offices towards us, provided our acts do not infringe the principles of neutrality; I believe it to be the desire of this country to preserve the neutrality and so far as I can learn even the French Republic do not wish us to be involved in War.

We have been insulted and injured by Great-Britain almost every part of the Globe, generous friends would be willing to forget former injuries, but the late conduct of that nation will force us to hate her.

I still would wish to avoid a War, but if we are forced into one and should be unanimous, Great-Britain may find us in a better situation than she at present imagines.

To the eastward there is an armed militia of 170,000, and in general throughout the States men will be found to act against a common enemy.

Nay if we are unanimous (from our situation) we have little to fear from European combinations.

This resolution, if past by a small majority would shew a division in this country. Whereas in measures at this time, we ought to be as unanimous as possible, There is no necessity for the Resolution.

My vote by some may be considered as unpopular; but I shall do my duty, and am well convinced that my immediate constituents will approve of my conduct.

NEW BERN, April 5.

*Extract of a letter from Antigua, dated March 6.*  
This port has been open, since January, for a few articles in American vessels; and will continue to during the will of the commander in chief. Accounts from Martinico state that St. Pierre was stormed on the 16th ult. and the succeeding day fell into the hands of the English. Fort Bourbon and Fort Royal are