

bility of a scarcity of that article. Not long after this meeting, congress, from a conviction of the necessity of protecting our envoys, proceeded to amend their act, and directed the capture of French armed vessels, not only on our coast, but elsewhere, and our cruizers did capture and our courts condemn them. This had at that time so strongly the appearance of war, that upon my receiving official intelligence from the powder receiver, that large quantities of powder had been ordered to be shipped for New-York, and orders then in the magazine would be shipped, if not purchased by the state:—and there not being any thing like the quantity belonging to the state, which in times like these it was always necessary to secure, I therefore ordered, in pursuance of the advice I had received, an additional quantity of 12,000 weight to be purchased and retained for the public use, which I trust will meet with your approbation, and can be distributed in any manner you think proper.

“I am happy to have it in my power to say, with some degree of confidence, that with these precautions, and the exertions I have otherwise used, that I believe the force and the militia of this state, are now in as complete a state of preparation as circumstances will admit, and that they will be so as soon as the field pieces which col. Hill and Mr. Hyme are to furnish, are all delivered and mounted, and distributed to the different regiments. To this subject I have unceasingly attended, and from the returns which will be laid before you, you will be able to judge. Considering, as I have always done, the militia as the true, safe and natural defence of our country, I have constantly endeavoured to place them upon the most respectable establishment, and I am sure you will view with pleasure the number of uniform corps which have been established, and with a particular degree of pride the numerous efficient and disciplined cavalry which our state can on any emergency bring into the field. To convince you of this, and to assist you in forming your opinion, I have obtained since your last session, and now lay before you, a complete census or return of all the militia of this state.

“In order to render our means of defence, in case of sudden attacks, as complete as possible, I have written to the governors of N. Carolina and Georgia, and entered into an arrangement with them, to reciprocate such assistance as the laws of this state enable me to afford, and have accordingly issued order to the brigadiers.

“This concert of states adjoining, and so like each other in their particular interests and situation, appeared to me as indispensable to their mutual support and protection; and I hope will meet with your approbation and concurrence.

“In consequence of the act of the last session, authorized and directing me to cause to be purchased a certain quantity of ammunition and arms; being always unwilling to touch the public money myself, and finding, from the alarming state of our public affairs, it would be necessary to complete the staff of our militia, I appointed, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the militia law, John Splat Cripps, esq. late agent for the foreign creditors of this state, and whose able and upright conduct in that business obtained the approbation of the public, to be commissary general of purchases for the use of the militia, and of consequence to act as agent for the purchase of the said arms and ammunition.

“The powder and lead were purchased here on the best terms, as will appear by the account to be submitted to you; but finding from enquiry, it was impossible to procure the musquets here, I directed him to write to Philadelphia, and enquire if they could be manufactured there, and to give, if they were equally cheap and good, the American manufacture the preference. Mr. Cripps accordingly wrote, and found from the number engaged of the manufacturers for the use of the state of Pennsylvania, it was impossible to procure them at that place, as they had been obliged to order importations of arms for their own use. He has since written elsewhere, and his acts and proceedings in this business, with the state it is in at present, will be made the subject of a particular communication.

“Upon the intelligence from France in the summer, and the great probability of an immediate war, our citizens subscribed liberally considerable sums, for the purpose of building and equipping gun-boats for the protection of our harbours and inlets, and the erection of a fort on Sullivan's Island, on the spot where the Fort there formerly stood. Three gun-boats have been completed, and presented to me by the committee of the citizens at whose expence they were built. I have accepted them for the use of the state, until your pleasure is known, and commissioned three gentlemen with the rank of lieutenants to command them, if called into service. You will therefore now please to determine respecting them. The fort also which has been erected on Sullivan's Island by the subscription of the citizens, is finished by col. Senf, whom I have directed to attend at Columbia with an account of his proceedings, and also as state engineer, since he has been called into service; and I have no doubt that your honourable house will think with me, that during that short space his exertions in constructing and superintending the different works he has had under his management, and in contributing to our defence, prove him to be an a-

ble, diligent and meritorious officer, and deserving your approbation.

“In pursuance of the law of the last session, I have caused five thousand weight of gunpowder, and twelve thousand weight of lead, to be sent to the arsenal at Abbeville, and the like quantity to be sent to Camden. An additional quantity is ordered to be in readiness to be sent to the same places, as soon as the musquets arrive, of which I have directed a proportion to be to each of those arsenals, so that in case of an alarm or exigency, no part of the state will now be in want of the means of defence, but each division, I trust, be in a complete state of preparation.

“I have also, in consequence of the advice of the gentlemen of the legislature assembled on the 20th July, transmitted to each of the brigadiers a medicinal chest, with medicines that will keep for many years, and surgeons instruments for the use of brigades, in order that should any of the drafts, directed by congress, be under necessity of taking the field they may always be supplied with such necessaries and medicines as their services and situations in the field may require.

“From these statements, I trust your honourable house will believe, that I have exerted myself as far as it was in my power, to place the militia of every part of the state in a situation to act when required by congress, or in case of an invasion, with every degree of comfort and convenience our situation could afford: that it has been done upon the most economical principles, and at the smallest expence possible; and that you will think with the gentlemen who assembled, and by whose advice I acted, that at that ineluctable season, and when they were so soon to assemble that it was better to use this sum in the preparations which have been made, than expend it in calling the legislature, when it was uncertain if they would have made a house, and the necessary expences of whose sitting would have absorbed a considerable part, and who would undoubtedly have directed the same things. You will at the same time consider if any, and what other arrangements are necessary, and direct that an account of all the expences which have been inevitably entered into, in consequence of the appearance of war, and the acts of congress ordering a draft, and which we were obliged immediately to furnish, should be transmitted to our senators and representatives, and application made for the reimbursement of such parts as they may think proper to direct.

“I have the honour to lay before you the dispatches from our envoys to the French republic, and all the laws passed by congress at their last session, which I have received from the secretary of the department of state. There were one hundred six acts passed at this session, and some of them of the highest importance to the honour and defence, as well as to the national character and liberties of the United States.

“There can be no doubt, that as the organs of the public opinion of South-Carolina, you will examine with the most careful attention every act which respects the welfare of our citizens.

“On the French Republic refusing to receive our envoys, and to enter into negotiations on the just, honourable and amicable principles of their instructions, you will certainly view with approbation the measures which have been taken for protecting our commerce, and placing us in the best possible state of preparation to resist the invasion, which at that time it was the general opinion, threatened some part of the United States. On these subjects, I am sure there can be but one opinion, and that our citizens would never approve of any negotiation incompatible with the rights, the honour, or the real independence of their country; and that to support these, however great the burthens may be, they will bear them without a murmur.

“While, however, a determination to maintain our national character, unfulfilled, ought always to govern the councils of the union, should the French Republic officially, and in a proper manner, communicate to them a determination to treat upon terms consistent with our rights and honour, there can, I should suppose, be no doubt that we will seize with avidity and pleasure the opportunity of evincing to the world, that while jealous of its character, and determined to protect its rights, the American government will always prefer honourable peace to war: that separated by an ocean of great extent from the territories of the old world, it is our earnest wish to keep apart from its politics; that devoted as they are to the peaceable pursuits of agriculture and commerce, they will be as unwilling to interfere with the rights and concerns of other nations, as determined that none shall guide or influence their own: that it will be their policy to have no too intimate connection, by treaty or alliance, with any power: to remember that our nation, with respect to its commerce must depend upon itself; that they should make such regulations as are best suited to our situation; the nature of our riches and the industry of our inhabitants: that having done, so our policy would consist in the resolution, never to derogate from them in favour of strangers. With this conduct, there can be no doubt of our easily preserving peace with every nation governed by the principles of justice.

“Our commerce is too lucrative, and our ports and supplies too convenient and important to the powers possessing valuable islands in the West-Indies,

to render our friendship or hostility indifferent to any of them. They well know the consequence of our weight being thrown into an opponent's scale, and in proportion as our maritime force increases, will the dangers of foreign wars lessen. With this policy and with that mildness in our manner, and firmness in our measures, which never fail to give true dignity to the councils of a nation, I have no doubt of the peace of our country being long maintained: that on its being preserved, even for a few years, the increase of its resources and power will be such, as to render it not only invulnerable to foreign attacks but to make it the interest of every people court its commerce and friendship, and to place it among the most envied seats of freedom and true happiness in the world: that it may be so, is my most sincere prayer.

“And as I am now, at the close of my third administration, about to resign into your hands the charge you have honoured me with, permit me to express my most grateful thanks for their repeated marks of the confidence of my country; and to hope you will receive it from me in as complete a state of public order and tranquility as to its internal concerns, and of preparation for defence, with respect to its external situation, as my most earnest and active exertions, and our public circumstances would admit.

CHARLES PINCKNEY.

W A Y E T T E V I L L E,

SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 15.

JESSE FRANKLIN, Esq. is chosen SENATOR in the Congress of the United States, to fill the seat of ALEX. MARTIN, Esq. whose time will expire on the fourth of March 1799.

STEPHEN W. CARNEY, Esq. of Halifax, is appointed a Major-General; of the militia, to fill the vacancy of his Ex. Gen. Davie, chosen Governor of this state.

ALFRED MOORE, Esq. (late Attorney General of this State) is chosen by the Legislature, one of the Judges of the Superior Court of Law and Equity.

The Legislature of this state, at their present session, have passed a law to suppress all kinds of gaming—Billiard Tables, Farro-Banks, E. O. Tables, all games at Cards, dice, &c. are suppressed by the Law, under severe penalties and forfeitures.

To His EXCELLENCY SAMUEL ASHE, ESQ. GOV. OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.

THE Board of Commissioners under the act, entitled “An act among other things to establish a Board for the investigation of frauds suggested to have been committed in the Secretary's office,” in compliance with the said act, REPORT.

That from a want of time adequate to such an undertaking, and from a disappointment experienced in not receiving the whole of the books and papers from Martin Armstrong's office, they have not prosecuted their investigation to the full extent contemplated by the law. Supposing the most immediate object of their appointment was to ascertain with precision the frauds and crimes committed by the persons implicated by the Committee at the late session of the Legislature, their first proceeding has been to examine with care, all such papers relative to Military Land warrants as were found on the suspected persons, contained in the trunks deposited by the Committee with the Commissioners, and said to have been taken out of the possession of William Tyrrell.—The next step in our progress was to select, arrange and examine such vouchers and military land warrants thereon in the Secretary's office, as appeared to have passed through the hands of the persons above alluded to, or to have terminated in titles to them.—The arrival of the Commissioners from the state of Tennessee with the Military land warrants, suggested them to the Commissioners the propriety of an examination into them—and finding that if they should resume the examination of the military warrants in the Secretary's office, no time would remain to enter on the enquiry of claims for western lands lately kept by John Armstrong, an object which they deemed of great and immediate interest, they concluded to make this the next business of their sitting.—The result of these several researches and enquiries will appear more fully than they could by a detailed report to your Excellency, by the lists and books which are hereafter described, and which will accompany this report.

First—With regard to the military land warrants—the facts of which we have made discoveries, and which we think it our duty to state, are the following:

1st. That warrants have issued to persons who do not appear, either from the muster roll, or from any voucher found in the Secretary's Office to be entitled by law to the same.

2d. That more than one warrant has issued in several instances; for the same claim.

3d. That it has been almost the practice of course