

By the U... Captain Graene, we have... From a perusal of the dates in our possession, we do not see any thing of much importance to add to the accounts received via New York, to the 26th of September.

A London paper of the 27th of September says—"It is with much concern we announce to our readers something approaching to a probability of war with Spain; and that ministers had determined to bring the questions in dispute between the two countries to an immediate issue."

A London paper of September 28, says—"The two Hamburgh Mails due on Sunday and Wednesday last, came to hand yesterday; their contents are of less importance than might have been expected at the present crisis. Of the further proceedings of the Court of Stockholm and Petersburg, no mention whatever is made. Letters from Italy say that the Dutch, and Swedish Consuls have, with six other persons, been thrown into prison at Genoa; but for this violent measure no cause or pretext is assigned. The French in that country are spreading their forces with cautious rapidity. They are about to take possession of the Papal posts of Civita Vecchia and Ancona, and the next accounts will probably inform us, that a French division has entered Naples. So imminent was the peril deemed in that city, that an English ship of war was waiting to bring off our Ambassador and the English Merchants, whenever occasion should require. The Petersburg Gazette contradicts the rumour of the King of Sardinia having quitted Rome in consequence of dispatches from Russia. He is said to have repaired to Gaeta for the benefit of his health. Buonaparte was at Mentz on the 14th issuing his conscriptions as usual to the Elector of Hesse, and the other German Princes who did not attend his Levees with sufficient promptitude. The Pope has formally announced at Rome his intended journey to Paris. The wretched inhabitants of Malaga have had the visitation of an Earthquake. Every man of feeling, on such an occasion, breathe a sigh for suffering humanity. Plague, famine, war, and earthquake! The trial of desolation can scarcely contain one drop of additional bitterness!"

The diplomatic intercourse between France & Sweden, it is said, has ceased.

It is stated in the French papers that two French frigates have captured the Althea English East Indiaman, bound from Bengal to London, with a cargo valued at 400,000l.—The English accounts, however, doubt the truth of the statement, and mention that insurance was still affected, in favor of the Althea, at Lloyd's.

Reports from Holland were, that Buonaparte intended a change of government in the Batavian Republic, and that the Hereditary Prince of Orange was to be declared Sovereign of the Batavian States.

Overtures are stated to have been made by the King of Sweden, for an alliance, offensive and defensive, with England.

The Gazette de France says—"The following number of troops are now said to be encamped upon the Continent: in France, 300,000 men; in Hanover, 38,000 men; in Switzerland, 12,000; in Austria & Bohemia 180,000 men; in Prussia and Silesia, 270,000 men; in Bavaria, 40,000 men; in Denmark and Holstein, 16,000 men; in Sweden, 18,000 men; in Russia, 190,000 men; in Servia, 30,000 men; in Turkey, 60,000 men; and, what is most surprising, thanks to the moderation and firmness of Napoleon the First, the Continent continues in perfect peace."

A London paper gives the following remarks on the foregoing paragraph:—"If we are to repose implicitly upon the authenticity of those accounts, the military force of France alone, is nearly equal to the combined strength of Russia, Austria, the Porte, and Denmark. The Prussian army is rated at 30,000 men above that of the Emperor of Germany, for the purpose, no doubt, of impressing the people of France with an opinion, that the inclination of that power to the side of France, will immediately turn the balance in her favor. That such a co-operation would not, in the event of a continental war, be improbable, is a general opinion in France, and is certainly warranted by the political intercourse of those two powers, ever since the accession of Frederick William from the Confederacy, in the last war. But, however, we did not think that he was so confidently to be relied upon, as the observation which is attached to this article, should induce us to expect. This augmentation, it is true, comes in an unofficial shape, but no man who knows the state of the French press, can entertain a doubt but that it has been inserted with the approbation, or at least the connivance of the Government. The obvious intent of it is, to terrify the French people against the approaching continental war, and to render them confident as to the result of it. To effect these purposes, no means could be more efficient, than to place such a prospect before the eyes of the French, as would subtract from the force of the powers that were likely to be ranged on the same side, and magnify the military array of France and her probable Ally."

A London price current of Sept. 25, states, that Carolina Rice sold at Auction, on the 20th, at 37 1/2. Georgia Cotton is quoted in it at 15. 1. to 2. 2.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, December 3, 1804.

Mr. Samuel Sawyer was added to the nomination for Councillors of State.

Mr. Knight presented a bill, making compensation to the Jurors of Richmond and for other purposes.

Received from the Senate the report of the committee on the printing business, to whom was referred a bill entitled a bill to economize in the expense of public printing; concurred.

Received also the bill specifying the duties of public printer, and fixing the salary at 200 dollars.—Read and returned.

The order of the day being called for and read.—The bill to repeal an act entitled "an act to repeal so much of the several laws now in force as grants power to the Trustees of the University of North Carolina, to seize and profane for the use of the said University, was read the second time and negatived.

YEAS—Messrs. Allison, Bryn, Brown, Bright, Bloomworth, Bowman, Carter, J. Cochran, R. Cochran, Cator, Campbell, Christopher, W. Cherry, Dobson, Estlin, Edmunds, French, Gully, Hooks, Harris, Henderson, Hawkins, Hall, Harwell, Harvey, N. Jones, E. Jones, J. Jones, Kirkpatrick, Leonard, Lowrie, M. Moore, Moody, Morgan, McCaune, J. Moore, McNeill, Mooring, Molton, Nash, Peery, Peares, Pearson, Parker, Phifer, Richardson, Reading, Rhodes, Robards, Spencer, Turner, W. Williams, Whitaker, Woodlie, J. G. Wright, Yancey—56.

NAYS—Messrs. Allen, Alexander, Arnold, Byler, Bright, Brasler, Bullock, Brown, Barrow, Calloway, J. Cherry, H. H. Cooke, Dunkin, Davidson, Erwin, Farrai Fonville, E. Foy, Forcham, J. Foy, Fagan, Griffin, Gentry, Headen, Holt, Hodgkins, Harrold Hoin, Hunt, Hulme, Horabuckell, Jordan, Johnson Knight, Lea, Lanier, Love, Lockhart, Misk, May, Mitchell, McLennan, Mobley, Ogilby, Pulain, Rabour, Small, Simmons, Sawyer, Steed, Stales, Smith, Smith of Rowan, Thompson, R. Williams, J. Williams, S. Williams, Whitehead, Withrow, Webb, Young—61.

Tuesday, December 4.

The bill to divorce Benjamin Singletary of Bladen from his wife Sarah, was read a second time.

Mr. Cooke, presented the petition of America Jones, praying to have certain property vested in her by land, which was accompanied with a bill to carry into effect the prayer of the petition.

Whereas certain commissioners have been appointed by a resolution of the State of Virginia, for the purpose of conferring with the Legislature of North-Carolina, on the subject of cutting a canal from Roanoke river to Meherrin river, and from Bennett's creek to Nansemond river; and whereas the said commissioners are now waiting upon the present Legislature for the above purpose,

Resolved therefore, That a joint committee of both houses, be appointed to confer with the above commissioners on the aforesaid subject, and that they report by bill or otherwise.—That Messrs. J. Moore, Lowrie, J. Cochran, Hawkins, J. Jones, Robards, Wright and R. Cochran from the Commons; and Messrs. Martin, Willborn, Montgomery & Little from the Senate.

Mr. Phifer presented the petition of Zebulon Beard of Buncombe, setting forth that the election so far as respects Jacob Byler, was conducted illegally, and praying an enquiry there in—referred to the committee of elections.

Mr. Nash presented a bill to cede to the U. States, the jurisdiction of a certain piece of land, for the purpose of erecting a Light House.

Mr. Brownrigg presented a bill to restore to credit James Permenter of Anson—referred to the committee of propositions and grievances.

Mr. E. Jones presented a bill, directing in what cases the clerks of the several county courts, shall be compelled to issue process.

The bill to advance the administration of justice, was received from the Senate. This bill among other things proposes the establishment of a Superior Court in each county, the appointment of four additional Judges, whose salaries are to be at one thousand dollars—and the present Superior Courts to retain the jurisdiction of criminal and equity causes.

Received from the Senate a bill to authorize Benjamin Jones, Thomas Harvey, Enoch Sawyer, and Frederick B. Sawyer, to cut a navigable canal and make a road through the great dismal Swamp, from the dismal Swamp Canal, near the head of the woods in Camden, to the White Oak Spring Marsh in Gates, and to demand and receive a toll thereon.

The Public Treasurer, the Secretary of State, and Comptroller, to whom was referred "the bill to amend an act passed in 1803, entitled an act to amend the 6th section of an act passed in 1801, entitled an act to amend the several laws in this State," with instructions to report whether any alterations are necessary to be made in the laws relating to lands, and the mode of paying for the same," shs leave to submit the following report:

The provisions of the act of 1797, chapter 16, so far as they relate to fixing the period within which the purchase money for such vacant and unappropriated lands belonging to this State, as might thereafter be entered, should be paid into the public treasury, appear to them judicious as well as indulgent, and are such as they have no doubt would have had a salutary effect on individuals, and a beneficial one on the Treasury, had that law been suffered in this regard to have its full operation.

The vacant and unappropriated lands belong-

ing to the State, may justly be considered a common stock, in which all the citizens are equally interested, and it is undoubtedly to be wished, that when a property is circumstanced, and in itself of such general concern and great value, shall be offered for sale, the terms may be well understood, and the conditions fixed and permanent: every relaxation and departure from this principle, will be found to produce infinitely greater mischiefs to the public than benefit to individuals. Viewing this matter, therefore, as it appears to us, and in the light above stated, we are constrained to consider the late acts of the General Assembly granting further indulgence and prolonging the time for paying for lands entered, as having been radically wrong and impolitic, and as operating an inevitable and general injury to the State; and at the same time a very doubtful and confined benefit to any, at least to any of that description of citizens for whom immediate relief they were intended.

It is hoped and believed that the feelings of your officers above mentioned, are in unison with that benevolence of disposition, which has from time to time led to the passing those laws, they would indeed consider themselves justly reprehensible were they callous to the necessities of the poor, and trait a character so little enviable will never justly attach to any of their acts. They hold, however, that no general law of the description above mentioned can be pulled, which will not immediately go to serve ninety-nine men in every circumstance, where it really serves and benefits one who is truly and in part indigent; and they therefore assume it as a truth, which daily experience proves, that the contingent and doubtful benefits effected by such laws, bear, well nigh, no proportion to the fixed & certain evils they never fail to produce. Independent of the foregoing, they consider such laws as tending immediately to retard the population of the country, by enabling monied men to hold large bodies of lands for years by mere entry, & the payment of 4 shillings only for each 640 acres. By such means it is presumed, the poor, who would enter and pay the purchase money to the State, are prevented & driven to countries where small tracts of land are not so industriously sought after. It is held likewise, that the revenue of the State arising from taxation is materially affected by laws of this description, inasmuch, as it is believed that entries of lands not patented are rarely returned as taxable, notwithstanding the directions of the laws in such case provided. There are possibly some exception of counties and many of individuals in this respect; but this cannot be considered as disproving that which is above stated as a general position.

Were other reasons required to shew the impolicy of such laws, it would, perhaps, be sufficient to add, that the principle which leads to the passing them for one year, were it at any unfortunately to be deemed a correct one, might be extended to infinity.

Under these impressions, the Treasurer, Secretary and Comptroller feel no difficulty in giving as their opinion, that the bill committed to them, would, if passed into a law, have an unfavorable operation.

They consider every temporary departure from general systems and general laws, in regard to money matters, as operating injuriously; and therefore feel it a duty they owe themselves to add that the bill, in regard to the subject matter committed to them, which they have the honor heewith to present and submit, has been drawn with a deference to the opinion of the Legislature on the same subject, heretofore and frequently expressed by their acts, rather than from their conviction that it provides the most proper course.

Submitted, JOHN HAYWOOD, J. CRAVEN, WILL WHITE.

The bill referred to in the above report, entitled a bill giving further time to pay the purchase money to the State on the entries of land therein mentioned, and fixing the times within which the purchase money on all entries which shall be made after the first day of January, 1805, shall be paid into the public treasury, was read.

Wednesday, December 5. Received from the Senate, the bill granting a separate election at Huntville, in Surry—read and returned.

Mr. Nash presented a bill for the further limitation of actions.

Mr. Brownrigg, a bill to amend the act to prevent excessive usury.

The bill directing the several Clerks in what cases to issue process.—And the bill to repeal the act of 1803, to divide the militia on the north side of the Yadkin in Rowan, were rejected.

Received from the Senate, the bill to annex part of Craven to Lenoir county.—Also the bill to incorporate the Newbern Marine Insurance Company—read and returned.

Mr. Wright presented a bill for the relief of foreign seamen brought into the port of Wilmington.

Mr. Horn, from the joint balloting, for a Public Treasurer, Secretary and Comptroller, reported that John Haywood, Esq. was elected Public Treasurer, Wm. White, Esq. Secretary, and John Craven, Comptroller.

Thursday, Dec. 6.

Received from the Senate, a bill to amend the act appointing commissioners to extend the boundary line of this State and South Carolina. Mr. Wright presented a bill to repeal part of the 14th clause or section of the act of '96, remedying certain inconveniences arising under the present land laws.

The resignation of Robert Parks, Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of Caldwell, was read and accepted.

The Bill to divorce Benjamin Singletary of Bladen, from his wife Sarah, was read the third and last time. Yeas 74—Nays 27.

Friday, December 7. Mr. Griff presented a bill to exempt all regular bred Physicians or Practitioners of Physick and Surgery from serving as Jurors, either in the County or Superior Courts.

Mr. Allison presented a bill to alter the divisional line between Mecklenburg & Cabarrus.

Mr. Cooke presented the petition of Polly Woodard, praying to have property secured to her. Referred to the committee of divorce and alimony.

The resignation of George Lee, as Lieutenant Colonel Commandant of Person, was read and accepted.

Mr. R. Cochran presented a bill to empower Dolphin Davis to receive storage of Tobacco, inspected and deposited in such warehouse or houses as he shall build in lower Fayetteville.

Mr. Love, from the committee to whom was referred a bill entitled "A bill to amend an act passed in 1803, to raise the jurisdiction of a Justice of the Peace out of court," delivered in a report, which being read and debated, was rejected.

The above bill being put upon its passage, was amended, and sent to the Senate.

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Zebulon Beard of Buncombe, praying that the seat of Jacob Byler be vacated, report, that it is the unanimous opinion of the committee, that the said Byler keep his seat, there being nothing produced to shew any unfairness or injustice in the election.

Submitted. Wm Lanier, Ch.

The bill for repealing part of the laws now in force for the recovery of thirty pounds and under, so far as respects the stay of execution in some cases, was read the 2d time and rejected.

Mr. Wright presented a bill for establishing a bank in Wilmington.

The committee appointed on a resolution of the Legislature of Virginia, Report, That your committee have taken the subject referred to them under consideration, and recommend the bill accompanying the report be passed into a law: Submitted.

JOHN MOORE, Chairman

The bill to incorporate two companies for the purpose of cutting a navigable canal from Roanoke river to Meherrin river—and another navigable canal from Bennett's creek to Nansemond in Virginia, was read and sent to the Senate.

Mr. Harvey presented a bill to repeal so much of the act for suppressing gaming, as respects Billiard Tables.

Received from the Senate a bill to amend an act, entitled "an act empowering the several Clerks of courts to direct the Secretary of State to correct certain patents or grants therein described where there have been errors by the Surveyor in issuing the same—read and returned.

The bill for the better observation of the Lord's day and the suppression of vice and immorality, was read and rejected.

Saturday, December 8.

Whereas James Murrell has been sentenced to suffer death upon a conviction in Salisbury Superior court of law, for selling a free person of colour, and whereas the said James has endeavored to get back the said free person of colour for the purpose of restoring him to liberty and the said free person being dead, it is out of his power to give this testimony of his repentance, and a number of persons having petitioned the Governor for a pardon,

Resolved therefore, That it be recommended to his Excellency the Governor to pardon the said James Murrell—Yeas 96—Nays 17.

The bill specifying the duties of Public Printer, being under consideration for the second reading in this house, Mr. James Jones moved as an amendment to the bill, that five hundred pounds be altered to six hundred pounds—Yeas 60, Nays 52.

Mr. Cook presented a bill granting two separate elections in Wake county.

Mr. Smith presented a bill to erect a new County from the extreme parts of Wayne; Johnson, Edgecombe and Nash.

THE GRAND LODGE of North-Carolina & Tennessee,

WILL convene on the evening of Monday the 10th instant, in their Lodge room in this City. At which time and place the Officers, Members & Representatives are required to attend.

By order of the most worshipful the Hon. JOHN LOUIS TAYLOR,

Grand Master.

ROBERT WILLIAMS, Gr. Sec'y.

December 10. A. D. 5804. A. D. 1804.

An Academy

WILL be opened in Hillsborough, on the first day of January 1805, under the direction of Richard Henderson, Esq. late professor in the University of North Carolina.

JAMES WEBB,

6w. Acting Trustee.

WILLIAM SHAW

Has just received a Fresh Supply of Holland Gin, French Brandy, Jamaica Rum, Malaga and Sherry Wines, Loaf Sugar, Porter and Cheese, A Trunk of remarkable neat Cotton Umbrellas, An elegant assortment of Ladies' Straw Bonnets, And a few Boxes first quality Spanish Segars.