

# THE MINERVA.

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From the People's Friend.

Men of New-York, read the following account of the treatment of the once free and independent town of HAMBURG by Napoleon; and in it read your own fate if you are not some vigorous, energetic, lusty efforts such as your executive is we fear, little disposed to make if he were qualified, and little qualified if he were disposed, and if proper provision be not made for our defence. Is there any one man of common sense in the union who believes that Bonaparte will spare America any more than he has spared every other part of the world which he has touched with his all-consuming hand? We say that there is not one there cannot be. Well then, what are you to think of Americans who triumph in his sanguinary successes, and consider every step he moves over the necks of prostrated men and nations as matter of congratulation. Supposing for argument sake that Americans had to reason to apprehend any thing for themselves or their country from the universal conqueror, are despotism, rapine and slaughter, are the overthrow of independent states and the subjugation of immense communities to the yoke of a fierce outrageous intruder, is the extinction of the freedom of mankind, or any portion of them, are those legitimate matters of triumph for Americans? No.—No American purely and honestly such, but must recoil from horror at such things.—But among Americans as well as among other people there are corrupt and dishonest men who would sell the whole human race to captivity for the morsel that feeds them, or for the gratification of their malice. Thank God, however, every day's experience shews that there are in this country fewer of that kidney than party heat has suffered men to imagine. The democratic editors pretty generally have shown that there is a point at which they will stop and recoil from it with horror.—Those who have passed that point are branded forever with ignominy. Never was a victory of the glorious Washington when fighting in the holy cause of true freedom, his victories were the gifts of God to a good people, and his march was bedewed with blessings from Heaven—Never were the glories of Trenton, Saratoga, and York-Town, announced with such proud exultation as the all-d-destroying march of Bonaparte over the people of Prussia has been gloried by an American print—American did we say—Forgive us Americans, forgive us this unintentional label upon your country. No not American, save that it is printed in America. That account which may be put in competition with the most fulsome Bulletin which the basest and most groveling minions of Napoleon, and which the lowest gascon drummer in his army, or the worst retainer to the Police-office of Paris might be ashamed to utter, has appeared in this City—this of New-York!!!—So confident of success and protection are the agents of Bonaparte, and so much more regardless are they of what appertains to this country, or to the opinions of this people than to the favor, the patronage, and the orders of the French Court, that they think nothing of insulting the good sense of this people by offering infamous incense at the shrine of that despot who is destined we fear to be their ruin, or at least their disturber, and who, if such abominations are allowed to be committed in the very teeth of this community, will soon play the Prussian march over the once happy plains of Columbia and scour New-York with his troops. Those who have not read the article we allude to, will not be able to conceive half the amount of its turpitude—we shall therefore reprint it *pro bono publico* as soon as we can afford room. Mean time, Americans, chew the cud upon the following—And you New-Yorkers remember that your city may be considered as in some sort the Hamburg of America.

## SEIZURE OF HAMBURG

BY THE FRENCH,  
and Confiscation of all British Property found in that city.  
HAMBURG, Nov. 22.  
This city which has so long preserved its independence, is reduced to a state of vas-

salage. After the most solemn farce practised by the French Minister, to produce the conviction that the neutrality of Hamburg would be respected, 2000 infantry, and 250 Dutch cavalry, suddenly entered the place on Wednesday, with General Mortier at their head, and formally took possession of the city in the name of Napoleon. The next day (Thursday) French soldiers mounted guard at all the public offices and gates, and free quarters were provided for the troops, who were distributed at the houses of the citizens. A few hours only had expired, when the names of the Generals, Colonels, and Commissaries of the French army, were inscribed on the doors of the principal mansions, so that it might have been supposed to have been a garrisoned town for six months.—The Commissary at War occupies the house of the British minister, which he entered half an hour after the latter had quitted it. The head-quarters at a Senator's, in the Blichen. One of the first measures has been a demand by the Commander in Chief of all the English property, in whatever form it may appear. To this application the Senate replied, that to enforce such a requisition would be the total ruin of the city. Gen. Mortier signified, on receiving this communication, that it was his determination not to relax a shilling of his demand.—Means are already taken to carry this scheme of pillage into immediate execution; and for this purpose the merchants are required to give an estimate of all the English property in their hands; domiciliary visits are appointed to ascertain the validity of such accounts; and yesterday afternoon many of the most respectable persons were put under arrest, to operate on the public mind by intimidation. Among these I am sorry to name Mr. Borrows, Mr. John Thornton, Mr. George Smith, and Mr. Parnell. At first the gentlemen were confined in a house near the Exchange, after seals had been put upon their effects; but they have since been permitted to occupy their respective houses. A guard however, always attends them. In this situation of things, apprehensions are entertained, that more of the English will be placed under arrest, until the avarice of these public plunderers is satiated. Since Wednesday, about 5000 more French infantry have arrived here; and it may naturally be expected, that from the stagnation of trade, and the increased price of subsistence, the lower orders will not be able to maintain themselves; and that the greatest disorder will prevail in a city, the population of which extends to 120,000 souls. The famine threatened at Berlin is to be alleviated by supplies from the granaries of Hamburg, which is another cause of anxiety, under the immediate necessities and difficulties with which this unfortunate city has to contend. I am sorry to present before you so melancholy a picture, and I should with yet more reluctance make any comment upon it, as affecting the great commercial city in which you reside, and manufacturing towns throughout the British Empire. Unfortunately the destruction of war is not confined to those who perish in the field, it is brought home to the fire sides of those who are the best friends to the peace, order, and happiness of society.

## Congress.

House of Representatives.

Thursday, February 5.

Mr. Early (Geo.) from the committee of commerce and manufactures, reported that the committee agree to the amendments proposed by the senate to the bill for a survey of the coasts of the United States. The house immediately considered the report, and concurred in the same without debate—ayes 58.

The bill extends the survey to the gulf stream and appropriates 50,000 dollars to defray the expense.

Mr. Stanton (R. I.) introduced a resolution directing a committee to be appointed to enquire into the expediency of authorizing the President of the United States to establish two arsenals on the margin of the

ocean for the use of the ships of the United States disabled at sea. Lost without debate—ayes 44, noes 48.

The house resumed the unfinished business of yesterday relative to fortifications and gun boats.

The question on the motion, heretofore debated at great length, to authorize the president to man and equip the armed vessels of the United States, was taken and lost—ayes 51, noes 54.

The question then recurred on concurring with the report of the committee in filling up the blank for appropriating money for building gun boats, with 250,000 dollars, and lost, ayes 4.

All the amendments reported by the committee of the whole, were disagreed to.

Mr. Thomas moved to fill up the blank with 150,000. The motion was supported by Messrs. Stanton, Smilie, Fisk, G. W. Campbell, Alston, and Varnum; and opposed by Messrs. J. Randolph, Elmer, Holland, Pitkin, Elliot, Lloyd, Mumford, Tallmadge and Cooke.

In the course of the debate Mr. Early moved a postponement till Monday week, which was lost—ayes 49, noes 58. He afterwards moved a postponement to next Thursday, which was also lost. Mr. Eppes moved a postponement till Monday next, which was carried, ayes 69. The postponement was agreed to, that further information relative to the utility of the gun boat system, might be obtained.

Mr. Early proposed the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the president of the U. States be requested to cause to be laid before this house such information as may be in possession of the president tending to shew the efficacy of gun boats in the protection and defence of any ports and harbors, with a list of such principal ports and harbors as may in his opinion be defended by gun boats, together with the number which may be considered necessary for each.

Half past 3 o'clock adjourned.

Friday, February 6.

The following message was received from the President of the U. States.  
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the U. States.

The government of France having examined into the claim of Mr. de Beaunachais, against the United States, and considering it as just and legal, has instructed its minister here to make representations on the subject to the government of the U. States. I now lay his memoir thereon before the legislature, the only authority competent to a final decision on the same.  
TH: JEFFERSON.

The message and accompanying documents were referred to the committee of claims.

A message was likewise received from the President, transmitting a copy of the laws of Louisiana, which were referred to a select committee.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill relative to issuing debentures.

A debate ensued on several amendments offered, when the question was put on ordering the bill to be engrossed for a third reading.

On this question a debate arose, which was continued without a decision until the adjournment of the house.

Saturday, February 7.

Mr. Lattimore offered the following resolution, which was agreed to.

Resolved, That the committee of Commerce and Manufactures be instructed to enquire into the expediency of establishing and maintaining an institution at Natchez, for the relief of sick and disabled boatmen, out of such funds as may be constituted by a tax upon persons employed in the navigation of the Mississippi, and that said committee have leave to report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. Thomas from the committee to whom was referred the resolution agreed to by the house on the subject of fortifications, presented a bill for fortifying the ports

and harbors of the United States which was referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. Lyon offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the committee of Ways and Means be instructed to enquire into the expediency of retaining a greater proportion of the duties on articles, the growth or manufacture of foreign countries, which may be re-exported.

Mr. Broom offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient to make further provision by law for securing the privilege of the writ of Habeas Corpus to persons in custody, under or by color of the authority of the United States, which was ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Varnum offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is expedient, in addition to sums otherwise appropriated to fortifying the ports and harbors of the United States to appropriate a sum not exceeding one hundred thousand dollars to enable the President of the United States to cause the port and harbor of New-York to be better fortified and defended.

After a short debate, this resolution was ordered to lie on the table.

The Speaker laid before the house a letter from the governor and judges of the Michigan territory, representing that in obedience to an act of Congress they have laid out a town, a plan of which they submit, and that they have made progress in the adjustment in the titles to lands, and the distribution of the donations contemplated by the said act.

A bill was received from the Senate entitled an act confirming claims to land in the district of Vincennes, which was referred to the committee on public lands.

The house resumed the consideration of the bill authorising the issuing debentures in certain cases.

Mr. D. R. Williams moved to recommend the bill. This motion, after debate, was lost.

The question was then put on engrossing the bill for a third reading, and the yeas and nays, after debate, taken, which were Yeas 53—Nays 52. The Speaker declaring himself in the negative, the question and the bill were lost.

## IN SENATE.

February 5.

A debate of considerable interest occurred on the following resolution:

Resolved, That acres of land be granted to the Chesapeake and Delaware canal company, upon their giving bond, conditioned to transfer to the U. States, a number of the shares of the capital stock of said company, at the rate of two hundred dollars a share, equal to the proceeds of the sales of the land granted to them; and conditioned to sell the said land within years, and to furnish to the secretary of the treasury a true account of the sales.

Messrs. Bayard and Pickens supported the resolution; Mr. Adams opposed it; and Messrs. Giles and Baldwin suggested doubts respecting it.

When the question was taken, and the resolution agreed to—Ayes 20—Noes 6.

## AN ACT

To alter the time of holding the circuit and district courts in the district of North-Carolina.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That instead of the times heretofore established by law, for the sessions of the circuit court for the district of North-Carolina, the said courts shall hereafter commence and be holden on the twelfth day of May; and the twelfth day of November, in each year, any thing contained in any former act or acts to the contrary notwithstanding. And all actions, suits, process, pleadings, and other proceedings of what nature or kind soever, civil or criminal, commenced or to commence in the said court, and all recognizances returnable to the said court, on the twentieth day of June next, shall be con-