

born, who is determined that the captains shall go without the militia laws, sooner than the Editor of the Minerva shall have a chance of printing them. Such is the implacable hatred of this man towards the Editor.]

Mr. Harris, from the balloting for militia officers, reported, that Thomas Wynne was elected major general for the first division, and Kedar Ballard, brigadier general of the first brigade in said division; Joseph T. Rhodes, brigadier general for the third brigade in the 6th division; Benjamin Lee, brigadier general of the 14th brigade of the second division.

Received from the Senate, a bill to authorize the Treasurer, in the name of the state, to subscribe for the number of shares which the state has reserved the right of subscribing for, in each of the Banks of Cape-Fear and Newbern.

Dr. Jones, from the committee appointed to enquire into the evils represented to exist in the laws relative to the trial of slaves, charged with capital offences, reported a bill to remedy these evils; which was read and sent to the Senate.

Dr. Jones, from the select joint committee to whom was referred a resolution to enquire into the practicability of adopting some measure to preserve and perpetuate the paper currency of this State, reported, that it was inexpedient and unconstitutional to adopt such a measure.

The bill to amend the Judiciary laws of last session, being on its second reading, Calvin Jones moved to amend it by striking out the 5th section, which gave the superior courts concurrent jurisdiction with the county courts in certain cases; which motion was rejected. Yeas 50, Nays 63.

Monday, December 4.
The bill declaring in what manner rents shall be recovered. The bill to amend the inspection laws, so far as respects beef and pork barrels; and a bill to compel certain persons therein mentioned to pay a tax for the benefit of the state; were severally read the second time and rejected.

Received from the Senate, a bill to authorize the governor to establish an arsenal, and to purchase arms for the use of the militia of this state. Read the third time and returned.

The Speaker laid before the House a report from the Adjutant-general on the state of the militia. Read and referred to the military committee.

Mr. Norwood presented a bill to amend the several acts relative to the Supreme Court.

A message from the Senate, informing, that they had rejected the bill to enable women in certain actions of slander, and to repeal part of the 8th section of an act passed in 1790, entitled "An act for establishing courts of law, and regulating proceedings therein."

From the Political Register.

INTERESTING PRITETE CORRESPONDENCE.

Extracts of Letters from respectable commercial houses in different parts of Europe, to their correspondents in this city:

BORDEAUX, Sept. 19th, 1807.

The George Washington, cannot be admitted to an entre, because she touched the British shore, though the captors did not land any part of the cargo, and the papers are in the most regular order.—Several Dutch vessels now here, are in the same situation, and would run the risk to be taken by the English if they are forced out of the river. Captain Hildeus is gone to Paris to petition, through the mediation of your Ambassador—if good sense prevails, he will obtain leave to land his cargo, which is attended with proper documents to prove it does not originate from any British settlement.

"The same measures have been taken in Holland, and in the ports of Germany, where there are still French garrisons. Several vessels coming direct from England have been confiscated, both ships and cargoes; and those which had only put into a British port by force, or choice, have been obliged to go away.—It is to be expected that the ambassadors of the neutral powers will make representations, and that such orders will be recalled—for commerce, even before, was labouring under too great difficulties.

"No variation in the course of exports since our last, though we have no neutral vessels to ship them for the North of Europe."

BORDEAUX, Oct. 3, 1807.

"Annexed I beg to hand a copy of a letter received from the minister, relative to the George Washington.—I am extremely concerned that it is so little consoling. This unfortunate ship is obliged to drop down immediately—and only waits the captain's return from Paris to go to sea, to obtain admission in the port of St. Sebastians; where I have been assured, that she can be admitted without difficulty. If that port should prove unsuccessful, there is only the port of Lisbon left to try—or to return to the United States—I hope she will not be reduced to that extremity."

[TRANSLATED FOR THE REGISTER.]

PARIS, Sept. 18, 1807.

The minister of the Interior to Mr. Foussat, merchant at Bordeaux.

I have received, sir, the request, which you have addressed to me, in your own name, and

that of other merchants of your city, the object of which was to obtain the admission of the American ship George Washington, which had been taken into Plymouth by an English ship of war.

Different reclamations of that nature having been submitted to the emperor, his majesty, confirming the dispositions of his decree of the 21st of Nov. 1806, has recently prescribed its strict execution. It is impossible for me, sir, after this decision, to grant your request; I therefore remit to you the piece, which was annexed to it—inviting you to communicate my answer to the merchants who, with you, had signed the memorial.

I salute you.

(Signed)

CRETET.

LONDON, October 9.

"I have barely to say that we are informed to day that the negociation here has ended, and that it is further to be discussed on your side.—The dispatches from this government go by this conveyance, the British Packet, to Mr. Erskine.—And we also learn Mr. Munroe will sail in about a week in a merchant ship. The Revenge will go on Sunday, I presume, to France, and from thence home, with dispatches both from Mr. Munroe and Mr. Armstrong."

LISBON, October 3.

"Since the date of our last, affairs in this country have taken a very disagreeable turn, and it has been rumored, by the consul, to all British merchants resident in Lisbon, that their situation in Portugal is very unsafe, and advising them, in order to save their property, to retire without delay—this communication has caused great alarm, and all the English families are in consequence preparing to depart in a few days, which of course occasioned much confusion.

Letters, subsequent in date to that from Bordeaux, (in this day's Register) which details the situation of the ship George Washington of this port, confirm the opinion that the French decree of blockade will be strictly enforced.

NEW-YORK, November 30.

LIBEL SUIT.—Yesterday came on for trial, at the sittings before his honor Judge Spencer, the cause of Maturin Livingston, vs. James Cheetham, for another libel, in charging the plaintiff with having been detected in cheating at cards. The Judge, in his charge to the jury, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, with perspicuity and strict impartiality, recapitulated the evidence, explained the law, and stated the grounds which ought to govern them in assessing the damages: On the last point, he observed, that they ought to have in view, not merely an atonement to the plaintiff but an example for the benefit of the public.

We shall be more particular in this account of the trial, and at least endeavor to give the public a specimen of some of the very brilliant things that were said by the counsel, but we are informed that the whole is preparing for the press by an eminent short hand taker, and will soon appear from the press of Mr. Gould.

The jury retired, and this morning came into court with a sealed verdict for the plaintiff; damages, 1000 dollars.

From Curacao.—Capt. Lenox, informs us that on the 16th of Oct. a gale from the south east commenced at Curacao which continued until one o'clock the following morning, when it became a complete hurricane. The water burst into the fort, and washed away the batteries, the Custom house, ordnance office, several private houses, the wall of the church yard, and the dead bodies out of their graves.—Little Curacao was for several days under water. Many houses at Peter-Demoy, situated on the south-east end of the town, were washed away; the point and reef batteries sustained much injury; but the shipping escaped without any material damage.

IMPORTANT.

NORFOLK, DECEMBER 4.

AN OCCURRENCE of yesterday has excited some interest, arising from the recollection of a recent circumstance; we shall state to our readers the particulars of the occurrence of yesterday, as they have been related to us, and as we believe to be correct.

A French seaman, belonging to the French ship *L'Inpeteux*, the ship that was destroyed by the British on this coast, had some time since entered at Baltimore, on board one of the gun-boats in the service of the U. States. Yesterday he deserted and got on board the tender of the French ship *L'Patriot*, declaring his wish to return into the service of his country. The officer commanding the gun-boat discovered and demanded the seaman, who the French officer refused to deliver him.—Some discussion was had, when the American officer departed, under an expectation, or a promise that the man should not be removed until the affair could be represented to commodore Decatur. While the officer was on board the Chesapeake, waiting the orders of commodore Decatur, and for a letter which he was then writing to the French commander, the Patriot's boat passed with the seaman in question on board, upon which orders were issued

by the commodore, to man one of the Chesapeake's boats, and pursue the French boat, with orders to his officer to endeavor to prevail on the French officer to return and come alongside the Chesapeake, but to bring the deserter back at all events. Upon the boat's getting alongside some altercation ensued, partly, we understand, by accident, and without design to injure or offend.

The French officer, we understand, agreed to return to the Chesapeake. Afterwards some correspondence took place between commodore Decatur, and the commander of the Patriot, the contents of which we are not informed of. We understand that both officers adhered, the one in refusing, and the other insisting, the result however is, that the man was taken and carried on board the Chesapeake, where he now remains until the pleasure of government shall be known.

Such is a concise state of the facts, as relate to this unpleasant business, upon which we mean to offer no remarks, except to repeat what we have done upon another occasion, that the employment of foreign seamen, particularly deserters, will generally be productive of mischief; and it is to be lamented that the officers commanding, are not invested by government with power to act according to the justice of the case, when they are satisfied.

Accounts of this affair went off by the mail to the navy department, and the French minister.

When we stated in our last the circumstance respecting the French Seaman, we did not know that two other Seamen belonging to the U. S. service had been within a few days past taken down on board the Patriot, but which we are assured from good authority is a fact, whether by force or by their own consent we are not informed.

As much as we advocate the policy and civility of restoring deserters, we think there is a respectful mode of proceeding in order to obtain the end. It is not to be expected that in an American port, a seaman is to be permitted to be taken, or to depart, from the service without the consent of the government or his commanding officer. Such a practice is repugnant to every sense of propriety, and but that we are not disposed to use harsh expressions, we should employ much stronger terms.—*Norfolk Ledger.*

BUONAPARTE'S DECREE.—Every account confirms the determination of the emperor to enforce this decree. The seventh article demands more serious attention—"no vessels coming directly from England, or from the English colonies, or having been there since the publication of the present decree, shall be received into any port." To dismiss this article without observation is impossible. It is in effect an interdiction that no belligerent ever assumed, or any neutral ever submitted to. According to this imperial decree an American merchant cannot trade with the same ship, one voyage to England and the next to France. The ship having been once in England, after the publication of this decree, is forever excluded a French Dutch and Spanish port.—The 8th article confiscates vessel and cargo for evading or violating the 7th. Upon the same principle we may be told next, that every American Merchant who has traded to England since publication of this decree, is prohibited to trade to France, and her dependencies ever after. *Ibid.*

From the Repository.

FACT AGAINST ARGUMENT.

Can Cotton be profitably exported from Bengal to Europe?

In considering how much we should be losers by a British war, it has been insisted, that Bengal can supply Great Britain with cotton, after a very little time, and that the final effect would be to injure if not to destroy the culture of that article in America.

It was said by Pacificus and some other writers, that the cotton of Bengal could be imported and sold at 12d sterling per pound.

This was denied by citizen Duane, who boasted of his knowledge of Bengal. Unhappily the following facts came in to defeat col. Duane's opinions.

The ship Exeter, capt. Osgood, owned by Mr. Piekman, of Salem, arrived in Boston the beginning of last month, with 1200 bales of raw cotton, imported from Calcutta, which cost 8 cents and a half per pound, and which it is expected will bring 16 cents per pound here, thus paying a very tolerable freight to the owner.—300lbs. weight of this cotton is screwed into so small a compass as to measure but 9 cubic feet.

Further facts.—Considerable quantities of raw cotton have been imported the last year from Bengal at the same price, and reshipped to Holland, where it is sold at 28 cents per pound, gross sales, leaving a handsome profit to the importer.—The net produce to the importer, is about 18 to 20 cents.

Again.—Another ship, the Pallas, captain Edwards, is loading at Calcutta for Boston, with raw cotton, the product of India.

It is reported, that 37,000 bales of 200lbs. each, were exported from Bengal the last year—and they can finally undersell us in Great Britain.—They will certainly do it in case of a war with Great Britain.

WASHINGTON-CITY, Dec.

We have received the following as the report of Mr. Canning's answer to Mr. Munroe's public rumor, we should decline inserting, but for the great importance of the subject, and from the right of our readers to be informed even of rumors so interesting, especially when credited by intelligent men.

The Note is said to state—That the British government has always claimed and exercised the right to take British seamen wherever found—That according to the modern usage of civilized nations, national vessels were liable to search.—That Great Britain will conform to this usage.—That for the affair of the Chesapeake reparation will be made, and a minister sent to the United States for that purpose.—No hint is given as to the nature or extent of the reparation.—On the contrary it is expressly stated, that the claim of the American government to reparation is lessened by the refusal to deliver up their men, and by the President's proclamation, both of which are considered as acts of hostility on our part.—That the minister sent to the U. S. would be expressly instructed not to blend with the affair of the Chesapeake either the impressment of seamen, or any other subject of difference between the two countries.—The letter is in a style more haughty than conciliatory, and calculated rather to increase than lessen the sentiment of indignation so generally excited by the unprincipled conduct of G. B. towards neutrals generally, and particularly towards the U. States.

FOR THE MINERVA.

Mr. Boylan,

It is true that I am but young and inexperienced in politics, this being my first essay; but I as one of the people, claim the right of saying before the public, my sentiments on a question which has for a considerable time past, agitated the public mind. I hope the inference will not be drawn, that I wish to arrogate or assume to myself the privilege of dictating to my fellow-citizens: it is merely on the ground, that the meaneast capacities may sometimes throw out hints, which if rightly improved, may lead to wise and beneficial ends, that has induced me to address the people of North-Carolina on the present occasion.

That our Judiciary System cannot remain in its present shape, seems to be admitted on all hands; for from the small experience we have had under its operation, we find it fraught with innumerable inconveniences; and I think I may venture to say, that like the opening of Pandora's box, it has filled the land with evils. Judges are unable to go through with the fatigue; lawyers are unable to form any regular circuit; clients deprived of the benefit of counsel they have employed, and who understand their cases; Courts are heaped one upon another; and like the sounding of the last trump, it has introduced eternal confusion among men. In addition to the objection (so much carpel upon) with respect to the mode of appointing jurors, there is another which has not heretofore been taken into view; that is, in most counties it will take at least two or three years to draw out the names put into the boxes, kept for the freeholders in each county: by that time, either from death or a certain restless disposition inherent in man, it may reasonably be calculated, that not more than three-fourths of those persons can be found in the counties in which they are to serve as jurors; for this evil there is no remedy. Also it amounts to an exclusion of talents and experience from the bench—the reverse of which has been the object of every wise legislature. We find from observation, that according to the common course of things, that men do not arrive at that knowledge in the law which is absolutely necessary that they should possess, before they can make a dignified judge, until they are somewhat advanced in years; and but few men at that time of life are capable of going through with the fatigue of a ten weeks circuit. It then amounts to a denial of justice in those counties in which they are unable to attend, and the Judges are left the pleasing alternative of either resigning or falling a sacrifice to fatigue. Men of talents and standing at the bar, I do presume would not accept of an appointment with such a prospect before them.—It would then follow that those appointments must devolve upon young men who had not established themselves in practice, who are void of experience, but who have sufficient strength of constitution to gallop round and do the business; but my fellow-citizens you should at the same time pause and reflect, that they may gallop your lives, liberty and property, to the devil. And it would not be a matter of surprise should the present system continue any length of time, that future elections for Judges should be governed by muscular strength instead of mental qualifications. This may be called mere declamation by the friends of the present system; but I appeal to every candid mind, if the last circuit does not completely justify the remarks I have made.—North-Carolina at present can boast of a legislative body superior to any that she has had for a number of years past; and it is to be hoped that they will take under their serious consid-