

Late Foreign Intelligence.

[By the Portsmouth, arrived at Baltimore.]

LONDON, OCT. 22.

The parliament was further prorogued until after Christmas.

The disgraced Minister Jackson arrived at Portsmouth Oct. 19, and reached London on the 21st. An expedition under Sir Home Popham had sailed from Corunna, Oct. 14, against Santona, with it were carried 10,000 spare muskets.

A French privateer schooner was taken by a British vessel called the Briseis. Lieut. Benthon, after a desperate conflict. The French captain, after the vessel had surrendered, and himself wounded in the knee, ran a man through who instantly died, for which he was thrown overboard by the carpenter of the British vessel but was afterwards saved.

Forty thousand souls had been driven into Lisbon before the retreating English army, who left the country behind them a mere desert.

“Lisbon, Oct. 12

“Romana has come down through the Alentejo to the opposite side of the Tagus with about 10,000 Spaniards; his troops are at this moment embarking to come over.

“It is said Mortier had joined Massena with about the same number of troops. Our troops are in the Mafra lines, the enemy all along our front;—continual rencontres of parties, but nothing great.

“Generals Trant and Silveira, with 12 or 15,000 Spaniards and Portuguese are near Coimbra in Massena's rear.

“The monks of Alcobaca opened their stores to all who chose to take any thing, and sent 85 pipes of wine to our army; the rest they consumed [by fire] among which were 9,000 bushels of wheat, to prevent the enemy from seizing it.”

LATEST FROM THE ARMY IN PORTUGAL.

We announced on Saturday the arrival of the Apollo, of 36 guns, with dispatches from Lord Wellington, containing an account of his retreat to Torres Vedras, followed by Massena, and that the two armies were within three leagues of each other on the 14th; and also stated, on the authority of accounts from Oporto, that Col. Trant had taken possession of Coimbra, and made 5000 prisoners, consisting chiefly of the sick & wounded at the battle of Buzaco.

With respect to the dispatches received on Saturday, their substance has been circulated through the government offices, in a bulletin, of which the following is a copy:—

“Dispatches have been received from Lord Wellington and Mr. Stuart, of the date of the 14th inst. by which it appears that the allied armies had retreated within their lines, their right being at Castanero, and Villa Franca, and their left at Torres Vedras, on the 7th and 8th inst. They had not been molested in their retreat, but some affairs had taken place between the cavalry of the two armies.

NEWS FROM FRANCE.

New York, November 21.

Yesterday arrived at this port, the fine fast sailing pilot boat Flash, Captain M'naugh, in the remarkably short passage of 21 days, from L'Orient, which port she left on the evening of the 29th of October.

By the Flash, we learn verbally, that a letter was received at L'Orient, on the morning of the 29th Oct from St. Maloes, stating that a telegraph dispatch announced that one wing of the British Army in Portugal, had been cut off in their retreat to Portugal, by the French. No intelligence of a general battle having been fought in Oct. in Portugal, had reached France.

From Cadix, Sept 26

“My former letters will have given you an account of the great progress the French have made with their batteries, notwithstanding the opposition and efforts of the Spanish and English; to day, for the first time, they directed their pieces against the city, and have thrown three 32lb balls into it, and not fifty yards from the market place, or place de St. Juan De Dios, these three are all that have been thrown, which I suppose were done with the design of ascertaining the distance they could cast a ball. I am sorry to add, that from St. Catharine's a few days past, they threw a shot under the admiral's bow, and I am informed by the officer of the Atlas, that a shell burst in the air, which would have been on board of her, but for the circumstance.

“I also regret to state, that the French are strongly fortified at the Trochodera, and they have a strong battery behind Matagorda, of about 70 pieces, which, when opened upon Fort Puntales, will render it untenable in two hours, and they will be able to sweep the beach. It is reported, that the French have cast mortars at Seville, that will throw 2000 toises, and is but 1800 to the city from Matagorda.”

One Hundred Dollars Reward.

ASCONDED, from the Subscriber, when on the eve of his departure from Savannah, on the 20th day of May last, his Negro Servant JIM, a shrewd, artful and cunning fellow, about 35 years of age, 5 feet 6 inches, born in North Carolina, and, by his own account, was brought up in the neighborhood of Raleigh. Had on, when he absconded, a blue coat, nankeen pantaloons and half boots, with tassels, and a glazed hat; when spoken to, affects a smile, and behaves respectfully. This fellow answers the name of JIM FAY, and sometimes M'GILLIS, having been formerly the servant of the latter gentleman. The above reward and all reasonable expenses will be paid, for his apprehension and delivery on me at this place or Savannah.

This fellow was bought from North Carolina in the year 1798, and sold by one David Herring, of that State.

ARCHIBALD CLARK.

St. Mary's Nov. 29.

Legislature of North Carolina.

DEBATE ON THE PUBLIC PRINTING.

House of Commons, Monday, Dec. 3.

The Bill prescribing the manner in which the Public Printing shall be in future regulated, being upon its second reading.

Mr. LOVE moved to amend the bill by striking out the whole of it except the preamble and enacting clause, and inserting in its place, a section prescribing the duties of the Printer and fixing the salary at £450.

Mr. L. said it was only necessary to observe that this amendment went to retain the appointment of the Printer in the Legislature, as heretofore, and to reduce the salary to the sum which the friends of the bill had introduced a letter to shew was the proper value of the business, instead of letting the business out to the lowest bidder, as proposed in the bill. As the subject had been so long before the House, and so thoroughly discussed, he did not think it necessary to add more at present.

Mr. PHIFER said the object of the amendment was to continue the printing business on the same footing as at present, and he was therefore decidedly opposed to it. Mr. P. repeated the same arguments which he used on a former occasion, in favor of letting out the business to the lowest bidder; the principal of which was, that it would avoid the annual excitation of Party Spirit which was occasioned by this election.

Mr. W. MILELER said, but for the denunciations which had been pronounced on this, & on a former occasion, against those who opposed the letting out the Public Printing to the lowest bidder, he should have given a silent vote on this bill. But when he heard gentlemen attempt to alarm the fears, instead of addressing themselves to the reason of members, in order to carry their point, he should charge himself with a dereliction of that duty which he owed to himself and to his constituents, were he not to give the reasons that would be in the voice which he was about to give. Mr. M. said he would have the charity to believe that the friends of this bill brought it forward from pure motives, and that they had at heart only a desire to save the money of the public, and that it was not their wish by it to put down one Printer who was obnoxious to them, in order to raise up another who was their favorite. What, then, he enquired, was the great object proposed by this bill? Why had gentlemen so much anxiety about so insignificant an Officer as the Public Printer—a mere setter of types, as they termed him. If he be an officer of so little consideration, why spend 4 or 5,000 dollars in debating a question which proposes only the saving of a few hundreds? Besides, said, Mr. M. both the bill and the amendment have the same object in view—they only differ as to the means of effecting it: for if the Printer's salary be too large, he was perfectly willing to reduce it;—but he had wished before he did this, to have gained some information on the subject, and that from a disinterested source. He was opposed to the passage of this bill, because he thought the letting of the Public Printing to the lowest bidder would not only be beneath the dignity of the State, but inconsistent with its true interest. Gentlemen say that the best way of getting the business done would be to offer it to the lowest bidder; but he believed the same spirit of rivalry, which frequently induced persons to give too high a price for property sold to the highest bidder, might induce persons in this case to undervalue their labour, in order to outstrip their rival.—What, asked Mr. M. would be said abroad, were they to proceed to let out the offices of Writing Clerk, Reading Clerk, and Doorkeepers? Would it not be termed rigid economy? It surely would. It is certainly of as much importance that the Laws of this General Assembly should be well printed as well engrossed or well read; and it is certainly of more consequence that a faithful person should have charge of the delivery of the laws after they are printed, than that a person of any particular description should keep our door. If any one office was to be let out, others ought to be put on the same footing.

Mr. M. was opposed to the bill on another ground. It proposes to take the power of this appointment out of the hands of the Legislature and place it in those of an individual. He believed the Representatives of the People were the most proper guardians of the pursestrings of the Nation, and ought not to part with this guardianship. He was no great stickler for old establishments, because they were old; but, on the present occasion, he felt a high respect for the work of our ancestors, who he believed to have been as great economists as the friends of this bill.—Gentlemen had said the bill was necessary, in order to do away party spirit, the same reason, he said, might be alledged, for parting with all legislative power, since scarcely any measure of importance was brought forward, in this, or any other legislative body, in which this spirit did not, more or less, appear. It seemed inseparable from deliberative bodies—and it might be well, in some degree, to cherish it, as the vigilance of each party might prevent the abuses of the other.

Mr. M. observed, that it had been exultingly asked, what the opposers of this bill, on their return home, would have to say to their friends, on their muster grounds? He was not himself much used to Tub Oratory. But if he were mounted on a Tub, or a Brandy Cask, on his return, and called upon for an account of his conduct, he would say “Gentlemen, I esteem very highly the confidence you placed in me as your Representative, and have endeavoured to deserve it; but if I have done any thing which you disapprove, believe me it was an error of judgement, and not of the heart.” If this did not prove satisfactory, they would, of course, let me remain at home another year—but if they did so, they could not deprive me of the comfortable reflection of having done my duty.

Mr. SEAWELL said, after the remarks which had been made by the gentleman from Warren he thought it indispensable that every friend of the bill should state his reasons for being so, as he seemed to have indirectly assailed the purity of their motives. The gentleman had urged no argument against passing this bill, except that the Legislature would part with the power of making this appointment; for it was not in order to bring

into view the propriety of letting out other offices, when the office of Printer was only under consideration. [Mr. S. here repeated the arguments which he used on a former occasion in favor of letting out the business to the lowest bidder, and quoted largely from Mr. Jefferson's Inaugural Address, recommending political moderation, the rights of minorities, &c. concluding with his famous sentiment of “We are all Republicans—we are all Federalists.”] Mr. S. also read the Resolution agreed to by Congress in 1804, for obtaining the Printing and Stationary for the House of Representatives at the lowest price; and amongst the yeas on this question he read the names of Alexander, Bluckledge and Stanford. Shortly after Congress had adopted this resolution, he said, the former Printer thought proper to admonish the Legislature, by calling it a Federal measure—but Congress still continued to have its business done in this way. Mr. S. said much about the purity of his motives, that he was uninfluenced by any personal consideration, &c. He then asked from what quarter the gentleman from Haywood had now learnt that the services of the Public Printer were not worth more than \$900? That gentleman professed himself no judge, where then had he now made this discovery? The proposed amendment proved, that for ten years past, \$600 a year had been paid too much for the printing. After reiterating several things which he said in the former debate, he concluded with warning gentlemen not only of the judgment of their constituents—but of a more awful judgment—that of their own Consciences.

Mr. LOVE said the friends of the bill seemed to have it more at heart to do away the office of the Printer, than even to lower his compensation. They had stated the salary was too high, and the amendment proposed to bring it down to the sum which they had fixed upon as the true value of the services performed. He had wished to have gone into an examination of the subject and to have obtained such information as could have been relied upon in relation to the value of the business. But this was resisted. The gentleman from Wake, said Mr. L. wished to know where I got my information that \$900 is the proper price of the printing? I got it from the letter which he or his friends had introduced on a former occasion. As the writers of that letter had said that was the value, he had proposed to fix the salary at that sum, and let them come forward if they thought proper, and offer their services. The gentleman from Wake has been very loud in his complaints against the present salary; but, said Mr. L. how did it happen that he never made the discovery before? I find he was in the Legislature 10 or 12 years ago; but he made no complaint against the salary at that time. All was then well. But now, all at once, the salary is found too high. Be it so, he would fix it at the gentleman's own sum; but he would keep the office. It was an office early fixed in our Government, no doubt to answer a good purpose, and he was not willing to part with it.

Mr. WILSON observed, that the bill on the table appeared to be supposed on 3 grounds; 1, to promote economy; 2, because Congress has set an example of letting their printing to the lowest bidder; and 3d, because the taking away the appointment of a Printer from the Legislature, will do away party spirit.—After taking a view of these several grounds, he should feel it his duty to support the amendment. Economy, he acknowledged, ought to be consulted; it was a principle inherent in Republican Government; but the spirit of Economy ought to be regulated by reason. Legislative bodies ought to do nothing which would encourage individual spleen. This bill he said, was calculated to excite such feelings. It had been said that the value of the public printing could not be well ascertained, because the members of this house had no knowledge on the subject—that though there are several Printers in this city, they would probably differ in opinion about the value of the work. But he had obtained information which he could rely upon, and which convinced him that the salary proposed is too low. He said this, without fearing any thing from his constituents, because he believed they wished him to act according to his best judgment. When this house is about to fix the proper compensation for an officer's services, it would be derogatory to the dignity of the Legislature, as well as dishonest towards the officer, to fix the amount at a less sum than their real value.—With respect to the offer which had been made to do the business for \$900, he had evidence which convinced him that it was not made from proper motives—but with a view of doing individual injury. He was clearly of opinion, therefore, that the sum mentioned was too low.

It is said this bill ought to be passed, because Congress has let out its printing; but the printing let out by Congress and the services performed by the Printer of this State are very different. The Printer for the House of Representatives of Congress has nothing to do with printing the laws, publishing them in a State Gazette, or distributing them. Indeed, he does not publish a paper; nor does he print any thing but the journals, bills, reports, &c. ordered during the session—the laws being published under the direction of the Secretary of State. In this State, the Printer is to publish the laws in his newspaper, and it ought to be in a paper that is widely circulated, that the people generally may become acquainted with the laws; and who are so well able to make this choice as the Legislature?

Mr. W. said, gentlemen appeared ready to jump out of their seats, whenever Party was mentioned, though they themselves have lugged it into the present discussion. If gentlemen are determined to avoid the collisions of party, it would be necessary to remove the appointment of Governor and other Officers from the Legislature. But it would be a vain attempt to prevent the appearance of this spirit in the Legislature. The party which would be overthrown, if this bill passes into a law, would, at the next session, rise again and endeavor to restore the office which had been by it put down. He knew, for one, that should he have a seat in the Legislature at that time, he should certainly use his endeavor to effect this purpose.

Mr. W. concluded with a hope that the amendment would be agreed to: it will fix the salary, and the Legislature will then fill the office as they judge proper.

Mr. PHIFER rose to answer an observation which had fallen from the gentleman from Stokes. He states that the printing let out by Congress is different from the printing done here; and the great difference appears to be, that the laws are not published in a newspaper. He knew the fact to be otherwise, as he took a Washington paper, & saw the laws inserted in it. He could see no dif-

ference betwixt the printing of Congress and that of this State.

The gentleman from Stokes was opposed to giving a cent less than the worth of the services of the Printer.—He thought fears on this head were unnecessary. He had no doubt that those who would offer to do the business knew better than to do themselves an injury by undertaking the work at less than its value.

That gentleman also said, that the gentleman who supported this bill did it from impure or improper motives. [Mr. Wilson said he had been mistaken. He had said that the proposition to do the work for \$900, had its source from individual spleen and improper motives; but so far from believing the advocates of the bill from being improperly actuated, he believed there are gentlemen who support the bill, who do so from the purest and best motives.] Mr. P. said he understood the gentleman differently, but as he had explained himself, he should accept of his explanation.—Mr. P. did not charge the gentleman who opposed the bill with any improper motives. He was willing to consider the motives of every individual as pure. A gentleman has said, that if Party Spirit is to be excluded altogether from the Legislature, all legislation must be excluded. This was by no means necessary. It was well known, that no other subject excited so much of this spirit as the appointment of a Public Printer.

Mr. JAMES W. CLARK was well aware of the disadvantage he laboured under in rising so late in the debate. Were he to attempt to elucidate all the merits of the present question, he should have to travel over ground that had already been taken. He should, therefore, confine himself to a few observations only. He should, indeed, have given a silent vote had it not been for the extreme sensibility which the gentleman from Wake expressed to those who differed in opinion from him, on their return to their constituents. That gentleman says, there is an awful Tribunal where every member, sooner or later, must appear—meaning, Mr. C. supposed the Tribunal of Conscience or future Judgment. He could assure that gentleman that he felt as little apprehension at the approach of these unerring tests of right and wrong, as he could do. Mr. C. said he represented a large number of persons, who, in delegating to him the power to act for them, did not, he hoped, consider him as a mere automaton, but had some reliance upon his judgment and discretion; and as he had not been particularly instructed in this case, he must be according to the dictates of his own convictions.

Mr. C. observed, that the preamble of the bill stated its object to be economy. The amendment proposed has this completely in view; but how does the house know what is economy in this case, or that there has been a waste of money for years past, as represented by the friends of the bill? This is collected only from a proposition to do the business for \$900. This is the data on which he supposed the sum mentioned in the amendment is founded, as it is to be supposed the persons who make the proposition have made a correct estimate of the value of the services to be performed.

As an admirer of the principles of our Republican Government, he was in favour of retaining the power of appointment to office in the Legislature, rather than place it in the power of any individual. He was therefore in favor of the amendment.

The question being put on the amendment, it was carried 83 to 41. The yeas and nays were as follow:

YEAS.—Messrs. Avery, Armfield, Allen, Bunch, T. Bell, Brittain, Barnard, C. Bryan, B. Bell, Bynum, Burton, J. C. Bryan, Barber, Bateman, H. Brown, Ballard, Blackman, Carter, Clarke, Copeland, G. L. Davidson, D. A. Deans, Deans, Edmunds, Felton, Flowers, Frink, Flower, Gamble, Guy, Gold, Gandy, Goodman, Gentry, Henderson, Hudgens, Hoyle, Hoke, Hannah, Hasell Horn, Hughes, Hulme, Horton, Daniel Jones, K. Jones, A. Jones, E. Jones, W. R. Johnson, Kilpatrick, Leonard, Lenoir, Love, Lindon, M'Guire M'Dowd, Mosley, Mebane, Mumford, Matthews, W. Miller, D. Miller, Nantz, J. S. Nelson, Norsworthy, I. Nelson, Payne, Pride, Reif, Russ, Rainey, Speller, Stedman, Scott, D. Sawyer, M. E. Sawyer, J. Thompson, H. Thompson, Vanhook, N. Williams, Wright, Ward, H. G. Williams, Wilson—83.

NAYS.—Messrs. Adams, Boyd, T. Brown, Barringer, Buie, Blount, Culverson, Caldwell, Caldeugh, Carr, Cameron, Chambers, Carthy, Collins, G. W. Davidson, Evans, Folson, Glisson, Gilchrist, W. Johnson, David Jones, W. W. Jones, A. Jones, Lanier, Lamb, Moody, Owen, Pinkham, Phifer, Peebles, Parsons, Ryan, Roberts, Reid, H. Smith, N. Smith, Seawell, Thomas, Jas. Williams, Webb, Jonas Williams, Edward Williams—41.

The bill as amended then passed its second reading.

The difference is this. The Printing of the House of Representatives in Congress only (for each House orders and regulates its own printing) is let out to the lowest bidder. The printing of the Senate is done in a different way; and the Laws are printed by order and under the direction of the Secretary of State, distributed by him, and published in such papers as he directs.—Editors.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday November 29.

The following bills were presented: By Mr. Phifer, a bill regulating the mode in which Sheriffs shall act upon executions issued to them from the Courts of Counties other than their own; by Mr. Wilson, a bill to give to the Supreme Courts exclusive jurisdiction of petit larceny; and a bill to compel persons to give security in certain cases; by Mr. W. W. Jones, a bill to amend an act to establish an Academy in Wilmington; by Mr. M. E. Sawyer, a bill concerning the Dismal Swamp Canal Company; by Mr. Phifer, a bill to establish an Academy in Cabarrus county; and a bill to amend an act of 1809 to amend the several acts relative to the removal of obstructions to the passage of fish up the several rivers, &c.

The annual Report of the Treasurer was read and ordered to be printed [A copy of it appears in the first page of this paper.]

A message was received from the Senate proposing to ballot to-morrow morning for a Governor for the ensuing year, nominating Benj. Smith and David Stone.—The names of Joseph Kiddick and James Mebane were afterwards added to the nomination.

The House was engaged almost the whole of this day, on the report of the Committee of Privileges and Elections on the petition of Henry Branson, praying that the seat of John A. Cameron, the member from Fayetteville, might be vacated, on the ground of improper means having been used to obtain his

election, and of his not being constitutionally qualified to hold his seat. The report of the committee was in favour of the sitting member; but on the question of concurrence, Mr. WILSON, from Stokes, objected to it, and moved for a commitment of the report and accompanying documents to a committee of the whole House. Mr. W. said he was induced to make this motion, from a representation which had been made to him of certain facts in this case. He had been informed that the committee had rejected the most important affidavits produced by the petitioner, because they had been taken since the commencement of the present Session of the General Assembly. Believing that this was not a sufficient reason for rejecting this testimony, he wished to have the subject investigated in a committee of the whole. After some debate the motion was carried, and Mr. W. W. JONES was called to the chair. It was then moved, that the evidence rejected by the committee of Elections be received. This motion being carried, leave was obtained for Mr. Branson to appear at the bar of the House, to declare what he meant to substantiate by the several affidavits. He appeared and stated the amount of his evidence, and observed that the affidavit upon which he most relied was that of David Hay, which went to prove that the deed upon which Mr. Cameron held his land was antedated for the purpose of giving him eligibility to a seat in the General Assembly. The reading of the notice with which Mr. Cameron had been served was called for. By this it appeared that the petitioner had stated one of the grounds upon which he meant to contest his election, was, constitutional ineligibility, but did not state in what particular Mr. Cameron was deficient. This, it was insisted upon by Mr. SEAWELL, to be indispensable, in order that the sitting member might have been prepared to rebut the charge. But even if there had been no objection to the notice, Mr. S. doubted whether the qualifications made necessary for the representatives of counties in the House of Commons were necessary for the representatives of towns, as the Constitution was silent in this respect. Mr. JAMES W. CLARK said this was a new and very extraordinary doctrine: for if it were not necessary for a town member to be a freeholder, neither would it be necessary for him to have any of the other qualifications prescribed for members of the House of Commons. He had no doubt, however, but in prescribing the qualification of members, that the Constitution embraced the representatives of towns as well as of counties. Its language is “each member of the House of Commons shall have such and such qualifications.” Nor did he believe when a sitting member was deficient in any one of these qualifications, that any notice was necessary. If, said he, a member is thus disqualified, and sufficient evidence of it can be adduced, he might at any time be rejected from his seat by a vote of the House, on the motion of any member. On the question, “Shall the affidavit touching the constitutional disability of the sitting member be read,” being put, it was negatived by a majority of three votes only. The rest of the evidence being withdrawn, the committee rose and reported that the sitting member ought to retain his seat, which report was concurred with by the House.

Friday, Nov. 30.

Three several ballotings were this day had for Governor without an election. On the first ballot, Smith had 78 votes, Stone 58, Mebane 27, Riddick 18; on the second, Smith had 82 votes, Stone 59, Mebane 23, Riddick 12; on the third (Gen. Riddick having withdrawn) Smith had 80 votes, Stone 78 and Mebane 26.

Mr. Ja's W. Clark, from the committee to whom was referred a resolution enquiring into the expediency of establishing a uniform mode of election throughout the State, reported a bill to establish a uniform mode (viz. in every captain's district) throughout the State.

The following bills were presented: By Mr. W. Johnson (Anson) a bill to give to the Superior Courts of this State original and exclusive jurisdiction on the trial of Slaves for capital offences; by Mr. Wilson, a bill to enable persons conscientiously scrupulous of holding slaves to manumit such slaves under certain restrictions.—[This bill was rejected on its second reading by a large majority]; by Mr. Hudgens, a bill to empower Jehro Summer, late Sheriff of Gates, to collect arrears of taxes; by Mr. Ward, a bill to establish an Academy in Swansboro; by Mr. A. Jones, a bill to authorise Seth Peebles, former Sheriff of Northampton, to collect arrears of taxes; by Mr. Pride, a bill to amend the several acts regulating the Police of the Town of Halifax; by Mr. Deans, a bill to empower the county court of Wayne to appoint overseers & wards to keep up certain bridges; by Mr. W. W. Jones, a bill to authorise the administrators of Jesse Dardin, late Sheriff of Sampson, to complete the collection of taxes for 1806 & 1807; and by Mr. Nelson, a bill to prevent the practice of horse-racing in the streets of the town of Germanton.

Received from the Senate, a bill to amend an act directing the mode of proceeding against deceased debtors, &c. a bill to repeal certain parts of the road law, so far as respects Buncombe county; a bill to alter the time of holding the county courts of Tyrone; a bill to divide the 3rd division of the ret; a bill to authorise Caleb Ethelredge Militia; a bill to amend an act to regulate the mode of settling with the Sheriffs, &c. in Richmond county.

Saturday, Dec. 1.

The balloting committee for a Governor, reported that B. Smith was duly elected, he having 97 votes, and D. Stone 84. J. Mebane's name had been withdrawn.