

put down, it was idle to talk of the edition act, there was no time since the year '83, that the liberty of speech had been so completely destroyed. This unconstitutional motion to introduce a mere argumentative fact on the Journal was rejected by the House. I see, however, the design of the opposition. Mr. Randolph has sounded the tocsin, let us touch this question briefly.

What is the use of the previous question? To bring the question to an issue, when it is supposed that it has been sufficiently argued.—To say that the question shall now be put, and then to admit that it may be put off by a procrastinated debate, is an absurd contradiction.

What is the basis of republican government? That the will of the majority should prevail, but if a minority can at the most important crisis defeat their measures by procrastination, it is the minority that prevails, and not the majority.

In the British Parliament, they have ways for bringing the question to a close, which we ourselves do not possess. And yet this complete crisis of opposition can happen only every 7th year; whereas in the United States it may happen every 2d year, as the powers of Congress expire on the 4th of March, every 2d year.

In many of the State Legislatures, the rule has been that no debate should take place.—How it is in Virginia, I know not.

If this power be abused, it rests like every other upon the responsibility of the representative, and the people may punish him for it.

The only question is, *has it been abused in this instance?* Five days and two nights was the question argued by the Federal side of the House, and yet Messrs Gardener and Gold were continually repeating, that the whole merits of it "lay in a nut shell." Did the Speaker speak to convince? The whole scene lay before me. One member was walking; another talking; a third reading, &c. &c. and if I were put upon my oath, I would express it as my deliberate opinion, that on some occasions, there were not more than 8 or 10 auditors, who listened to the Speaker; why did he speak, then, to delay and baffle the will of the House?

The liberty of debate is a great principle—but there is a difference between the use and the abuse of it. Suppose the federal practice were to prevail; the appropriation-bill, perhaps, which might be essential to the operations of the government, is delayed till 10 minutes before 12 o'clock—A junco defeats—the government is at a stand or the constitution is violated.

I might expatiate further on this subject, but I am tired of it. The Senate will unquestionably pass the supplemental bill to day; no amendments have been made; it is the same as you have seen in the newspapers.

Foreign Articles.

EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.

The following view of European Prospects, is extracted from a letter, written by a gentleman of high respectability, residing on the continent of Europe, dated November 3.

Notwithstanding all the vexations and deprivations to which our commerce, during the present year, has been exposed, I presume it will upon the whole prove profitable even to the merchants. The issue which has been opened to the principal productions of our agriculture has been immense, and the farmers and planters suffer comparatively little from the injustice of foreign nations and princes. Our government, I trust, will adhere inflexibly to the system of neutrality, which henceforth I expect will not be difficult; that alone will preserve our independence amidst all the European revolutions. The war against colonial articles of merchandise will in all probability be continued at least another year, and at present assuming the form of heavy duties, it may be more troublesome than it has been in the shape of prohibitions, or even of confiscation. But they will eventually make their way for others. It appears not improbable that one ultimate result of the present war will be the total dissolution of the European colonial system.—France has lost all her colonies—Holland no longer exists—Spain has every prospect of being irrecoverably severed from her trans-Atlantic possessions—and Portugal has already, by the removal of her royal family to Brazil, made way for a second independent power in the western hemisphere. England alone remains with her colonies: but they will be of little use to her in that relation, when the two American continents and all the important islands of the West Indies will be open to the trade of all the world. It is impossible that all this should be restored at the peace.

The north of Europe has, during the present year, been the scene of some important events, the most remarkable of which have occurred in Sweden. While a French General has been elected as successor to the throne of that kingdom, its former sovereign has been a wanderer in Switzerland and Germany until he came to Russia, and about a fortnight since embarked at Riga, on board an English armed vessel for England. The principal forces of Russia have been engaged in active and bloody war, with the Turks and Persians. To extend the Russian frontier to the shores of the Danube, two Turkish provinces have been incorporated with the Russian empire; and several strong fortresses on the south side of the Danube have been taken. A new order for recruiting the armies has been issued, requiring a levy of three men upon every five hundred throughout the empire. It will raise

an addition of about one hundred thousand men to the present military force of the country.

FROM SWEDEN.

It is learned by the George Smith, 63 days from Gottenburg, that in consequence of the declaration of war by Sweden against Great-Britain, all the ports of Sweden were shut against vessels of every nation, and no exportation or importation of colonial produce was allowed in any of her dominions. The holders of colonial produce were in universal confusion, expecting hourly a seizure of their property. There had been several considerable failures at Gottenburg, in consequence of those in-England.—Exchange was up to 87. Many Americans had attempted to clear out their vessels without effect. It was rumored that 20 000 French troops were to be quartered in Sweden, by order of Bernadotte.

Domestic.

From the (New-York) Public Advertiser.

NOTE ON TORPEDOES.

Since the communication of the Secretary of the Navy to the House of Representatives on the 14th inst. transmitting the report of the committee, on the experiments which were made at New-York, the impression on the public appears to be, that the Torpedoes have failed; but the fact is, that after detailing the essays then exhibited, which were only the commencement of experiments yet to be made; the committee state that the system is at present too imperfectly demonstrated to justify the government in relying on it for national defence. This is not giving an opinion that it is impracticable, or even difficult to render them of the first importance for defence and attack. The committee leave such proofs to future experience on engines, the destructive powers of which are acknowledged, and which perhaps admit of as great a variety of combinations, and modes of practice, as any other instrument of war.

To my friends and countrymen who have felt interested in the success of this invention, and who may have looked forward to the independence and tranquillity which its success would secure to the United States, I address this note, to assure them, that although the experiments have hitherto been very imperfect, in consequence of being limited to 1500 dollars, and not having one man practised to the use of the engines, yet I have every reason to be satisfied with the rapid progress of this infant art, to a state of important utility. Since the experiments, I have made several improvements on the anchored or permanent Torpedoes, and combinations for harbour defence, which has satisfied many gentlemen at Washington, that with such engines in the hands of men organized and practised in the use of them, it is impossible for an enemy to enter a port where they shall be placed, or used with the usual courage and skill of nautical men. Although in the progress of experiments on a new and difficult subject, embarrassments will occur, I have not had any reason to abandon my first opinion of the final effect of sub-marine explosions, which is that being practised by corps of men and improved by time, talent and experience, as other engines of war have been, they will clear the ocean of the present destructive and piratical practice of maritime war. Firm in this opinion, and supported in it by experiment, and the opinions of many men of calm reflection and sound judgment, with an object of such immense importance to my country in view, it never shall be abandoned by me, until I can find some one of such mathematical talents as to prove that the practice of torpedoes is not within the laws of nature, or the mental and physical powers of man. When the papers presented by the Secretary of the Navy shall be printed, the public will be convinced that there is sufficient reason to proceed with ardour in this enterprise.

The report of the committee did not arrive at Washington until the first of this month; it was then too late for the present session of Congress to purchase a vessel, and proceed in experiments to blow her up in defiance of the obstructions which might be made; and the severity of winter being also unfavorable to such experiments, they have been postponed until the next meeting of Congress. ROBERT FULTON. February 24th, 1811.

ANOTHER NEW STATE.

The District of Maine (a part of the state of Massachusetts, but separated from Old Massachusetts, by the state of New Hampshire) contains 228,705 inhabitants, a population nearly equal to that of New-Jersey. It has been for some years past in contemplation to erect Maine into a separate state. Accordingly we find by the fast Boston Centinel, that the Senators and Representatives in the Massachusetts Legislature from the District of Maine, amounting to 74, have held a Conven-

tion in Boston, and voted 56 to 18, that "it is expedient to take the sense of the people on a separation from Old Massachusetts."

The District of Maine, is the most easterly section of the United States. Its greatest length is 377 miles, and its greatest breadth along the sea coast 240 miles, being considerably greater in extent than Pennsylvania, and nearly equal to New-York. It is bounded E. by the river Magegadavick, which divides it from Nova Scotia, W. by New-Hampshire, N. and N. W. by the province of Lower Canada, and S. by the ocean. It is divided into six counties, viz. York, Cumberland, Lincoln, Hancock, Kennebunk & Washington. These are divided into about 169 incorporated townships. The chief rivers are, Penobscot, Kennebec, Saco, Androscoggin, and St. Croix, besides a great number of small rivers or creeks. The principal lakes are, Moosehead, Chesounhook, and Sebacoock. The most remarkable bays, are, Casco, Penobscot, Machias, Saco and Passamaquoddy. The principal capes are, Elizabeth, Small-Point, Naddock and Potpoise. Few countries are better watered than this, there being scarcely a township without one or more large ponds in it.—It contains many huge mountains, whose tops are said to be covered with snow the greater part of the year. Old Massachusetts, or Massachusetts proper, when separated from Maine will be 156 miles long and 93 broad, with a population, according to the late census, of 471,640 inhabitants.—*Philadelphia Paper.*

Scientific.

PROGRESS OF THE FINE ARTS.

The American reader cannot fail to be agreeably surprised at the discovery mentioned below. Chemistry has been justly entitled, "The mother of Science," and when applied to the comforts of life, and to the most domestic purposes, its utility will be felt and acknowledged. We presume the time is not very remote when it shall become a principal and indispensable part of common education. The following is copied from a late National Intelligencer.

COMMUNICATION.

The fertility of invention in the U. States is manifested in the variety of patents issued since the constitution was established. As might be expected, amidst the variety of patent discoveries, some promise no substantial benefit to the community, although they contribute to illustrate the inventive character of the country. Others promise to combine general utility with scientific improvement while they attract attention from the learned, the elegant and the elevated in society.

At the President's House, amidst the display of *beauty and fashion*, on Wednesday evening; and at the Union Ball in Georgetown on the Anniversary of Washington's birth, cake was presented of an unusual excellence. Its beautiful whiteness attracted attention. The taste was found to be equally delicate—the fineness of the flour was admired. Where was it made? Who made it? Where can it be had? Were the enquiries. It appeared that the flour had been made without grinding the wheat, but that chemical process had separated the flour from the spirit in the grain. By this process, the result of attentive investigation and scientific experiment, it is found that thirty pounds of flour, far exceeding in whiteness and delicacy the best ground flour, and two gallons of fine spirit, can be obtained from one bushel of good wheat. This mode of separating from the bran both the flour and the spirit, in its finest and purest form, has been so recently discovered, that it has not been possible for it to be in general use. From this flour can be prepared a beautiful starch, clear and elastic. But the importance of such a discovery to the agricultural interest, and the commercial advantage of flour freed from the fermenting principle, & therefore continuing good and without acidity or mould in the warmest climates and during the longest voyages, can be instantly appreciated by the reflecting and judicious. The inventor is a gentleman of New-Jersey.

DISCOVERIES IN CHEMISTRY.

Experiments on the distinct nature and character of the oxymuriatic acid, and on its peculiar relations to other bodies, have been lately made by the celebrated professor Davy, of the royal institution in London. This gentleman read a memoir of his researches into these matters before the royal society, sometime ago, and as his name has been frequently introduced into our gazettes, it may be interesting to our readers to peruse a late letter of his to David B. Warden, Esq. communicated some time since to professor Mitchell, of New-York: inasmuch as it contains some of the most extraordinary developments of modern science, to wit, a new oxylene (or second acidifying principle) and recent opinions touching the doctrines of Phlogiston. *Nat. Int.*

London, August 7, 1810.

Sir—I did myself the honor of sending you a few lines about two months ago, in which I thanked you for the able paper on the analysis of the great meteoric stone. Your communication has been published in the Philosophical Magazine.

In the same note I requested you to have the goodness to correct an error

in my last Bakerian lecture, as to the specific gravity of sulphurated hydrogen, which I rated too low. Within the last month I have weighed this gas with great care twice. The average gives 33 5-10 grains for the 100 cubical inches.

Wallston has lately read a paper to the royal society, on a new species of urinary concretion which he names cystic oxide.

I have been pursuing my inquiries concerning the alkaline metals, and endeavoring to gain precise results upon some objects, which I had only slightly touched upon in my former communications. I have two or three decisive experiments against the idea of Potassium and Sodium being hydruets; and a great mass of facts in favor of their being bodies as yet undecomposed.

I have read a paper to the royal society on the oxymuriatic acid, which is now in the press, and of which I shall do myself the honor of sending you a copy.

My principal conclusions are:— 1. That the oxymuriatic acid (as it is improperly named) is a simple body, belonging to the same class as oxylene.

2dly. That it combines with pure inflammable bodies in the same manner as oxylene; forming compounds which have properties analogous to acids and oxides, but which differ from them in being decomposable by water.

3dly. That its affinities for many bodies are stronger than those of oxylene.

4th. That a muriatic acid has for its basis hydrogen and this gas (Scheele's gas, for to call it oxymuriatic acid is to create confusion) for its acidifying principle.

5thly. That the phosphorus, sulphur, tin, arsenic, and many other bodies are acidified by this gas, and that they form acids capable of forming peculiar compounds with alkaline matter.

6thly. Ammonia neutralized by the compound of phosphorus and oxymuriatic acid, gains fixity; and the combination has characters analogous to an earth, and is not decomposable, by intense ignition.

The phlogistians supposed one principle of inflammability; the anti phlogistians one principle of acidity, or solution; but there are certainly no acidifying principles known; and others may be discovered.

I shall at all times be happy to receive any communications with which you may be pleased to honor me; and remain, sir, your obliged and humble servant, H. DAVY.

Worthy of imitation!—Extract from Governor TOMPKINS' patriotic speech to the Legislature of the State of New-York, now in session at Albany.

The precarious situation of Foreign commerce and a retrospective view of the multiplied violations of our sovereignty and neutral rights, render the astonishing progress which has been made in the improvement and extension of domestic manufactures, a source of lively satisfaction. A benevolent providence has endowed our country with an abundant supply of raw materials of every description, and our citizens are eminently distinguished for persevering industry and for great ingenuity in all mechanical arts. The returns of the census recently taken, prove not only the unexampled increase of population in the United States, but furnish also evidence of the flourishing condition of our manufactures. Let us extend to them the utmost encouragement and protection which our finances will admit; and we shall soon convince the belligerents of Europe, to whom we have been extensive customers, that their mad and unjust policy towards us, will ultimately recoil upon themselves, by giving to our industry, our resources and our policy, a new direction calculated to render us really independent.

(By Authority.)

LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES.

An ACT supplementary to the act entitled "An act concerning the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes."

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That no vessel owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States, which shall have departed from a British port prior to the second day of February one thousand eight hundred and eleven, and no merchandise owned wholly by a citizen or citizens of the United States, imported in such vessel, shall be liable to seizure or forfeiture, on account of any infraction, or presumed infraction, of the provisions of the act to which this act is a supplement.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That in case Great-Britain shall so revoke or modify her edicts as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States, the President of the United States shall declare the fact by proclamation; and such proclamation shall be admitted as evidence, and no other evidence shall be admitted of such revocation or modification, in any suit or prosecution which may be instituted under the fourth section of the act to which this act is a supplement. And the restrictions imposed, or which may be imposed, by virtue of the said act, shall, from the date of such proclamation, cease and be discontinued.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That until the proclamation aforesaid shall have been issued, the several provisions of the third, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth, tenth and eighteenth sections of the act en-

titled "An act to interdict the commercial intercourse between the United States and Great-Britain and France and their dependencies, and for other purposes," shall have full force and be immediately carried into effect against Great-Britain, her colonies and dependencies: Provided however, That any vessel or merchandise, which may in pursuance thereof be seized, prior to the fact being ascertained, whether Great-Britain shall, on or before the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, have revoked or modified her edicts in the manner abovementioned, shall nevertheless be restored on application of the parties on their giving bond with approved sureties to the United States, in a sum equal to the value thereof, to abide the decision of the proper court of the United States thereon; and any such bond shall be considered as satisfied if Great-Britain shall, on or before the second day of February, one thousand eight hundred and eleven, have revoked or modified her edicts in the manner abovementioned: Provided also, that nothing herein contained shall be construed to affect any ships or vessels or the cargoes of any ships or vessels wholly owned by a citizen or citizens of the United States, which had cleared out for the Cape of Good Hope, or for any port beyond the same, prior to the tenth day of November, one thousand eight hundred and ten.

J. B. VARNUM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO. CLINTON,
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

February 3, 1811.—APPROVED,
JAMES MADISON.

An Act making a further distribution of such laws of the United States, as respect the Public Lands.

BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, That the copies of the laws prepared and printed under the authority of "An act providing for printing and distributing of such laws of the United States as respect the public lands," passed the twenty-seventh day of April, one thousand eight hundred and ten, not otherwise disposed of, shall be distributed in the manner following, that is to say:—The President and Vice-President of the United States, the Members of the Senate and House of Representatives, the Secretaries of the State, Treasury, War and Navy Departments, the Attorney General, the Comptroller and Register of the Treasury, the Judges of the Supreme and District Courts of the United States, the Governors and Judges of the Territories, the Surveyor General of the United States, and the Surveyor of the Lands of the United States south of Tennessee, shall each receive one copy; the Clerks in each of the Departments of State, Treasury and War, employed on land business, five copies; the Secretary of the Senate, to be placed on his table for the use of the Senate, five copies; the Clerk of the House of Representatives, to be placed on his table for the use of the House of Representatives, ten copies; two hundred and fifty copies shall be placed in the library, and remain there under the same regulations as the other laws of the United States; one hundred copies shall be deposited in the Treasury Department for the use of the land boards, and offices which may hereafter be established; and the remainder shall be placed in the library, and each member of Congress hereafter elected, shall, so long as any remain, exclusive of the two hundred and fifty copies before mentioned, be entitled to one copy at the commencement of that session of Congress next succeeding his election.

J. B. VARNUM,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.
GEO. CLINTON,
Vice President of the United States and
President of the Senate.

February 18, 1811.—APPROVED,
JAMES MADISON.

LIST OF ACTS

Passed at the Third Session of the Eleventh Congress.

AN Act to authorize the transportation of certain documents free of postage.
To fix the compensation of the additional assistant Post-master-general.
For the relief of George Armroyd, & Co. Providing for the final adjustment of claims to land, and for the sale of the public lands in the territories of Orleans and Louisiana.
To continue in force for a further time, the first section of the act, entitled "An act further to protect the Commerce and Seamen of the U. States against the Barbary powers."
Making an additional appropriation to supply a deficiency in the appropriation for the relief and protection of distressed American Seamen, during the year 1810.
Providing for the removal of the Land Office established at Nashville, in the State of Tennessee, and Canton, in the state of Ohio, and to authorize the register and receiver of public monies to superintend the public sales of land in the district east of Pearl River.
To enable the people of the territory of Orleans to form a constitution and state government, and for the admission of such state into the union on an equal footing with the original states, and for other purposes.
Concerning the Bank of Alexandria.
To change the name of Lewis Grant to that of Lewis Grant Davidson.
Making appropriations for the support of government for the year 1811.
Making appropriations for the support of the military establishment for the year 1811.
Making appropriations for the support of the Navy of the U. States for the year 1811.
To incorporate the Bank of Potomac.
To incorporate the Bank of Washington.
To incorporate the subscribers to the Farmers' Bank of Alexandria.
For the relief of the heirs of the late Major General Anthony Wayne.
To incorporate the Union Bank of Georgetown.
Making compensation to John Eugene Leitensdorfer for services rendered the U. States in the war with Tripoli.
Authorising the discharge of Nathaniel K. Fosdick from his imprisonment.
For the relief of William Mills.
To enable the Georgetown Potomac Bridge company to levy money for the object of its incorporation.
Making a further distribution of such laws of the United States as respect the public lands.
Providing for the sale of a tract of land lying in the state of Tennessee, and a tract in the Indiana territory.
For the relief of Peter Audrain.
Establishing navy hospitals.
For establishing trading houses with the Indian tribes.
In addition to the act, entitled "An act supplementary to the act concerning consuls and vice-consuls and for the further protection of American seamen."