the Houſe, and the minute of the abſent members.

The committee, to whom were referred a petition in the French language, of ſundry inhabitants of St. Vincennes, were diſcharged from the further conſideration thereof, which was referred to the Secretary of State, with inſtruction to report thereon at the next ſeſſion.

The petition of Shandy Yard, a free black man, was read, praying relief for the loſs of property and for perſonal injuries which he had ſuſtained while in captivity in Tripoli.

Ordered to lie on the table.

Report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

About 1 o'clock, *Mr. Griswold* roſe, and after a ſpeech of conſiderable length, moved the following reſolution.

Reſolved, that the Committee of ways and means be directed to enquire whether the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund have, agreeably to the directions of the act, intituled "an act making proviſion for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the United States," applied the ſum of ſeven millions three hundred thouſand dollars, provided by the ſame, to the payment of the principal and intereſt of the public debt; and to enquire, generally, into the account and proceedings of the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund,—and to report to the Houſe.

Mr. Randolph ſeconded the motion, and replied to Mr. Griſwold.

Meſſrs. S. Smith and Nicholſon next ſpoke, when Mr. Griſwold cloſed the debate.

All the gentlemen, who ſpoke, advocated the adoption of the reſolution; but on different grounds.

Mr. Griſwold attempted to ſhew that the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund had not appropriated, as directed by law, the ſum of ſeven millions three hundred thouſand dollars; and that the report of the Commiſſioners varied conſiderably from the reports of the Secretary of the Treaſury previouſly made.

On the other hand, Meſſrs. Randolph, S. Smith, and Nicholſon repelled the charges made by Mr. Griſwold, and inſiſted that the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund had rigidly complied with law, and that there was no hoſtility between their report, and the reports of the Secretary of the Treaſury.

The queſtion was taken on the reſolution about 4 o'clock, and carried unanimouſly in the affirmative.

Mr. Randolph moved, and the Houſe agreed, that the committee of ways and means have leave to ſit during the ſittings of the Houſe.

Mr. Holland, a member of the committee, being abſent, Mr. Dickſon was appointed in his place.

WEDNESDAY, March 2—6 P. M.

A meſſage was received from the Senate, ſtating that they had poſtponed until the 4th inſtant, (which is equivalent to a rejection) an act to reduce the marine corps of the United States.

The houſe took up the amendments of the ſenate to the act to revive and continue in force an act in addition to an act intituled an act in addition to an act regulating the grants of land appropriated for military ſervices, and for the ſociety of the United Brethren for propagating the goſpel among the heathen.

Mr. Dawſon obſerved that one of the amendments propoſed by the Senate, allowed general La Fayette 11,500 acres of land, inſtead of 15,000, which was the quantity an officer of his rank was entitled to.

The amendments were referred to a ſelect committee conſiſting of Meſſrs. Southard, Goddard and Dawſon.

On motion of Mr. Nicholſon the houſe, according to the order of the day, reſolved itſelf into a committee of the whole on the report of the ſelect committee, on the meſſage of the Preſident of the United States, with the accompanying documents, relative to the official conduct of *John Pickering*, Judge of the diſtrict court of the United States for the diſtrict of New-Hampſhire.

Mr. S. Smith in the chair.

The report of the committee recommends the adoption of the following reſolution:

Reſolved, that John Pickering, Judge of the diſtrict court of the diſtrict of New-Hampſhire, be impeached of high crimes and miſdemeanors.

Mr. Huger objected to acting in this caſe at ſo late a period of the ſeſſion.

Mr. Goddard moved the riſing of the committee, in order to poſtpone the reſolution to the next ſeſſion.

Meſſrs. Mitchill, Dana and Mott, ſupported; and Meſſrs. Nicholſon, Bacon, Haſtings, Elmer, Randolph and Euſtis oppoſed the motion.

Motion loſt—Ayes 9—Noes 43.

The committee roſe, and reported their agreement to the reſolution.

The houſe immediately took up the report, and concurred with the committee in the above reſolution—Yeas 45—Nays 8.

Ordered that Mr. Nicholſon, and Mr. Randolph, be a committee to go to the Senate, and at the bar thereof, in the name of the houſe of repreſentatives, and of all the people of the United States, to impeach *John Pickering*, Judge of the diſtrict court of the diſtrict of New-Hampſhire, of high crimes and miſdemeanors; and acquaint the Senate, that the houſe of repreſentatives will, in due time, exhibit particular articles of impeachment againſt him.

Ordered, that the committee do demand, that the ſenate take order for the appearance of the ſaid John Pickering, to anſwer to the ſaid impeachment.

LIST OF ACTS
PASSED AT THE
SECOND SESSION
OF THE
SEVENTH CONGRESS.

An act making a partial appropriation for the naval ſervice during the year 1803.

An act for the relief of Charles Hyde.

An act authorizing the ſale of a piece of land, parcel of the Navy-Yard belonging to the United States, in Charleſtown, in the ſtate of Maſſachuſetts, to the proprietors of the Salem turn-pike road and Chelſea bridge corporation.

An act for the relief of Henry Meſſonnier.

An act for the relief of the ſufferers by fire, in the town of Portſmouth.

An act to provide for the granting of clearances to ſhips or veſſels owned by citizens of the United States, lying in the river Miſſiſſippi, ſouth of the ſouthern boundary of the United States; and therein to amend an act, intituled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage;" and for other purpoſes.

An act making further proviſion for the expences attending the intercourſe between the United States and foreign Nations.

An act to provide for the due execution of the laws of the United States, within the ſtate of Ohio.

An act in addition, to an act, intituled "An act fixing the military peace eſtabliſhment of the United States."

An act ſupplementary to the "Act concerning Conſuls and Vice-Conſuls," and for the further protection of American ſeamen.

An act to provide an additional armament for the protection of the ſeamen and commerce of the United States.

An act for extending the external commerce of the United States.

An act to prevent the importation of certain perſons into certain ſtates, where by the laws thereof their admiſſion is prohibited.

An act for continuing in force a law, intituled "An act for eſtabliſhing trading houſes with the Indian tribes."

An act in addition to an act, intituled "An act more effectually to provide for the national defence, by eſtabliſhing an uniform militia throughout the United States."

An act for the relief of Moſes White.

An act in addition to an act, intituled "An act concerning the regiſtering and recording of ſhips and veſſels of the United States," and to the act intituled "An act to regulate the collection of duties on imports and tonnage."

An act ſupplementary to the act, intituled "An act providing paſsports for ſhips and veſſels of the United States."

An act making an appropriation for the ſupport of the Navy of the United States, for the year one thouſand eight hundred and three.

An act to alter the time of holding the Court of the United States, in Kentucky diſtrict.

An act making appropriations for the ſupport of government for the year one thouſand eight hundred and three.

An act in addition to the act, intituled "An act regulating the grants of land appropriated for the refugees from the Britiſh provinces of Canada and Nova Scotia."

An act concerning the ſalt ſprings on the waters of the Wabaſh river.

An act concerning the inſurance of buildings, goods and furniture in the county of Alexandria, in the territory of Columbia.

An act in addition to, and in modification of the propoſitions contained in the act, intituled "An act to enable the people of the Eaſtern diviſion of the territory North-weſt of the river Ohio, 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."

An act to make Beaufort and Paſſamaquoddy ports of entry and delivery; to make Eaſton and Tiverton, ports of delivery; and to authorize the eſtabliſhment of a new collection diſtrict on Lake Ontario.

An act more effectually to provide for the organization of the militia of the diſtrict of Columbia.

An act for the relief of inſolvent debtors within the diſtrict of Columbia.

An act to prolong the continuance of the Mint at Philadelphia.

An act in addition to an act, intituled "An act to amend the judicial ſyſtem of the United States."

An act making appropriations for the military eſtabliſhment of the United States States for the year one thouſand eight hundred and three.

An act to revive and continue in force an act in addition to an act, intituled "An act in addition to an act regulating the grants of land appropriated for military ſervices, and for the ſociety of the United Brethren for propagating the goſpel among the Heathen;" and for other purpoſes.

An act authorizing the transfer of the duties of the ſupervisor to any other office.

An act concerning the City of Waſhington.

An act for the relief of Joſhua Harvey and others.

An act regulating the grants of land, and providing for the diſpoſal of the lands of the United States, ſouth of the ſtate of Tenneſſee.

An act to alter the time for the next meeting of Congreſs.

An act directing a detachment from the militia of the United States, and for erecting certain arſenals.

An act to make proviſion for perſons that have been diſabled by known wounds received in the actual ſervice of the United States, during the revolutionary war.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, March 7, 1803.

Never was there, perhaps, a greater triumph of truth and talent, than that gained by the republican ſide of the Houſe of Repreſentatives during the two laſt days of the ſeſſion.

At one o'clock on Wedneſday Mr. Griſwold made a detailed ſpeech of conſiderable length, replete with involved calculation founded on ſeveral reports of the Treaſury Department, in order to ſhew that the commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund had not applied to the extinguiſhment of the public debt, the whole ſum of ſeven millions three hundred thouſand dollars, directed to be ſo applied by the laws of the laſt ſeſſion. His ſpeech embraced many other criminating charges againſt the commiſſioners, all drawn from involved calculation, and was terminated by offering the following reſolution:

Reſolved, that the committee of Ways & Means be directed to enquire whether the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund have, agreeably to the directions of the Act, intitled "An act making proviſion for the redemption of the whole of the public debt of the United States" applied the ſum of ſeven millions three hundred thouſand dollars, provided by the ſame, to the payment of the principal and intereſt of the public debt; and to enquire, generally, into the accounts and proceedings of the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund,—and to report to the Houſe.

Mr. Randolph, chairman of the committee of Ways and Means, with an intrepidity which did him great honor, roſe to ſecond the motion. He rejoiced that the enquiry was inſtituted, though at ſo late a day as almoſt to preclude a full inveſtigation during the few remaining hours of the ſeſſion. Leſt however the miſrepreſentations of the gentleman from Connecticut ſhould go forth to the public without an anſwer, and might thence be deemed unanſwerable, he followed Mr. Griſwold in all his calculations, expoſed their error, and ably vindicated the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund and the Secretary of the Treaſury from every charge made. He concluded by moving that the committee of Ways and Means ſhould be permitted to ſit during the ſittings of the Houſe, that late as the period was, a letter, ſuch as the gentleman from Connecticut ſhould himſelf indite, might be ſent to the Secretary of the Treaſury, and the fulleſt poſſible inveſtigation take place.

General S. Smith and Mr. Nicholſon followed, and with luminous truth, completely diſpelled the clouds which had been attempted to be caſt on the conduct and characters of the Commiſſioners of the Sinking Fund and the Secretary of the Treaſury.

The reſolution was unanimouſly agreed to, and leave given to the committee of Ways and Means, to act during the ſittings of the Houſe.

Great was our ſurpriſe at Mr. Griſwold ſubmitting his reſolution to enquire at ſo late a period, when the Houſe was ſo engaged with multifarious buſineſs as to have actually ſat day and night: Great was our ſurpriſe, equalled only by our pleaſure, at the able and deciſive and inſtantaneous replies and refutations of Meſſrs. Randolph, Nicholſon, and Smith.—but ſtill greater was our ſurpriſe, and ſtill greater our pleaſure, at the receipt of the letter of the Secretary of the Treaſury on the enſuing day.

On Wedneſday between 6 and 7 in the evening, the committee of Ways and Means addreſſed a letter to the Secretary of the Treaſury making the numerous enquiries required by Mr. Griſwold. On the next day at 6 o'clock in the evening, Mr. Randolph, as chairman of the committee, ſubmitted to the Houſe the *anſwer of the Secretary*, containing 32 pages folio, beſides numerous accompanying documents. It was immediately read under the moſt reſpectful attention of the Houſe; and appeared to contain the moſt ſatisfactory elucidation and vindication of the conduct of the Commiſſioners of the ſinking fund, who were demonſtrated to have obſerved every injunction of law, and to have performed every act of duty.

When the length of the letter of the Secretary of the Treaſury is conſidered, and that its contents embrace a wide field of calculation, and that it argumentatively diſcuſſes the objections and enquiries of Mr. Griſwold, it becomes a matter, if not of aſtoniſhment, at leaſt of admiration, that it ſhould have been ſo promptly made. Nor can it be otherwiſe accounted for, than from the clear and correct principles which have governed the conduct of the Secretary, and his ability to elucidate at a moment's warning the moſt elaborate ſcrutiny into the tranſactions of his department, even to the ſatisfaction, we will ſay, of thoſe who had previouſly conſumed months, in the leiſure of their cloſets, in diſcovering the moſt vulnerable and artful points of attacks.

We mean not to adulate; but we feel an honeſt pride in pronouncing the order of the Houſe to print two thouſand copies of the letter of the Secretary, a well merited monument raiſed to his talents and integrity.

But as if there were a fatality attending all unwarranted attempts to blacken character, there was another forlorn hope, not to be abandoned in a day of political deſpair, that appears to have been cheriſhed with an unuſual ardor of expectation, but which unfortunately for its devotees terminated in diſappointment and humiliation.

The ſale of the BANK SHARES has long been a topic of federal traduction. The impunity with which the groſſeſt calumnies have been ſuffered to circulate through the medium of newſpapers and circular letters, ſeems to have emboldened the oppoſition, and inſpired them with an expectation that the floor of the Houſe of Repreſentatives might, at a *politic* ſeaſon, be made the ſucceſsful theatre of more authoritative reproach.

Accordingly on Thurſday, the laſt day of the ſeſſion, *Mr. Bayard* moved a reſolution for the appointment of a committee, with inſtructions to enquire into the legality of the ſale of the Bank Stock, alſo into its expediency, and whether the United States did not ſuſtain a loſs thereby.

This reſolution was preceded by a long and elaborate ſpeech, in which Mr. Bayard introduced detailed ſtatements derived from anonimous documents, of the price of Bank Stock at the period of ſale, and the rate of exchange between the United States and London, and Amſterdam, and between London and Amſterdam. His object, he ſaid, was to prove that the ſale was illegal and inexpedient, and that it eventuated in a loſs of 119,000 dollars to the United States.

Mr. Bayard was immediately followed by Mr. Randolph, Mr. Nicholſon, Mr. S. Smith and Mr. Bacon; who, diſpelled every doubt, and ſhewed the ſale to have been legal, expedient, wiſe, and productive of a conſiderable ſaving to the United States.

Mr. Griſwold followed, & at 4 o'clock the Houſe adjourned without coming to a deciſion.

In the evening ſeſſion the diſcuſſion was again reſumed, in a debate of a moſt deſultory character, which was not terminated till between 11 and 12 o'clock.

Various motions and deciſions were made; of which we ſhall at preſent ſtate only two (reſerving for a future day, which ſhall be very early, a complete report of the whole debate.)

The Houſe rejected the motion of Mr. Bayard—Yeas 24—Noes 40.

When, on motion of Gen. S. Smith, a reſolution declaring that the commiſſioners were authoriſed to ſell the Bank Shares, that the ſale made by them was expedient, and the reſult highly conducive to the intereſts of the United States, —was adopted—Yeas 42—Nays 12.

It may be neceſſary to obſerve that the letter of the Secretary of the Treaſury is a complete refutation of the charges made in the diſcuſſion of the motions of both Mr. Griſwold and Mr. Bayard.

Copy of a Letter dated December 19th, 1802, from a farmer in Washington County, Pennsylvania, to his friend in Allegany County, in the same state. Communicated to the Editor by a Member of Congress.

"I THANK you, my dear Sir, for tranſmitting to me, by my Son who arrived this afternoon, the letter addreſſed to you by Mr. Morgan; dated at New Orleans, the 19th of October laſt, with a tranſlation of the Intendant's Proclamation, cloſing the American trade at that place.

It is to be greatly regretted, that the Intendant has adopted ſo haſty a meaſure, to the injury of his own government, and ſo obnoxious to the trade and feelings of our citizens.

Mr. Morgan's letter, appears to be, a circular one*, and tending, though perhaps not intended, to excite the reſentment of the citizens of the United States, and induce them to haſty meaſures of redreſs, inconſiſtent with the dignity of the general government, and the true intereſts of our country.

"*We* know, that in a ſingle week, we could, in any one of our counties, produce a force ſufficient to ſweep the Miſſiſſippi clear of all foreign neighbours, ſhould neceſſity, and our government require the meaſure: Yet *I* alſo know, and you will agree with me, that we ought to uſe our influence to allay or repreſs the paſſions and reſentments of thoſe who believe, that a violation of our treaty with Spain by the government at New-Orleans, thus flagrant, would juſtify our immediate reſentments, ſo far as to lead us to diſpoſſeſs that nation of all her territory on the Miſſiſſippi. Such ideas have been held out; but it is incumbent on all enlightened friends to our country, to diſcountenance thoſe ideas; you and I are natives of the United States; far advanced, and advancing farther in years and experience—we can have but one principle, or object in our politics, (the good of the whole), however we may diverge, at certain points, to ſeek the ſame object.

"We cannot doubt that the ſupreme executive of our country, will haſten to adopt every amicable meaſure, moſt effectual to procure redreſs, and a perfect re-eſtabliſhment of our rights, agreeably to our treaty with Spain.

"The true ſpirit and principle of the American nation, is to cultivate peace and concord with all others; and therefore all friends to this principle ſhould, at this time, ſtep forth to diſcountenance all vengeful reſentments, againſt acts of deputy governors and Intendants, although violating our rights in the moſt important articles of our treaties. Let us then ſubmit for a ſeaſon, to all inconveniences, rather than involve our country in hoſtilities with powers, which have on many occaſions evidenced important ſervices and friendſhip to the United States. Let us depend on the wiſdom of our general executive government, to negociate in the moſt amicable manner with thoſe powers, for ample redreſs, and the future ſecurity of our Miſſiſſippi commerce. In failure thereof we know our power, and may then exerciſe it, without violating the laws of nations or the laws of reaſon. In the mean time, I think that our fellow-citizens on the waters of the Miſſiſſippi, ought reſpectfully to addreſs the Preſident of the United States, and repreſent to him in the ſtrongeſt terms, (what indeed he well knows) that *we* cannot ſubſiſt without a free navigation *into*, and *out of* the Miſſiſſippi, on ſuch juſt and reaſonable principles, as ſhall tend to promote and eſtabliſh the intereſt of all concerned, and extend to poſterity the peace, concord and happineſs of every nation *interested*.

"We have ſeen much publiſhed on the ſubject of Blount's and Liſton's Conſpiracy, to excite the Weſtern citizens of the United States to ſurpriſe and poſſeſs themſelves of Louiſiana, Anno 1795, or 6; yet few know that the intrigues of Britiſh Emiſſaries, with the Grand Lama of Miami, and other weſtern citizens, in the year 1788, were carried to a ſtill greater extent, and perhaps none but the firſt Preſident of the United States, the then Spaniſh Ambaſſador, and the then governor-general of Canada, knew or know that you and I were from principle, the ſole cauſers of the defeat of thoſe intrigues: ſo it was; and we never claimed any merit therefrom.—We did our duty, and never claimed more. FAREWELL!

* It turned out to be so.

NATCHEZ, Jan. 11.

The following appears to the Editor to be of ſo intereſting a nature to the United States, that he haſtens to publiſh it; it was encloſed to him from New-Orleans, and there can be no doubt of its authenticity.

FROM LOUISIANA.

Translation of the Royal Order for the delivery of this Province, viz.

'I have received the following information from the miniſter of war,' by a paper of the 15th current, the ſenior, Don Pedro Cevallas, ſaid to me what follows—

The King having ceded to the French Republic, the colony or province of Louiſiana, with the extent that it actually has; and as it was poſſeſſed by the French when they ceded it to his Catholic Majeſty; I communicate to you the royal order, that diſpoſition may be made for the delivery of the ſaid province to the French commiſſary or commiſſaries, that for this effect ſhall preſent themſelves with due authority, from the government of the ſaid republic; which royal reſolutions I have tranſmitted to the captain general of Louiſiana, advertiſing him, that it was alſo the will of the *King* in what reſpects *fixed* regiments, and other *Veteran* troops, that garriſon that province, that the individuals that voluntarily wiſh, to remain under the dominions of his majeſty, may paſs (the delivery of the province being made) to the Havannah where they will receive their deſtination.

I communicate to you this royal order, that you may concur in what reſpects you, to the accompliſhment of this ſovereign determination.

God preſerve you many years.

SOLER.

Madrid, July 30, 1802.

LONDON, Jan. 7.

A letter from the Hague informs us, that the greateſt activity is uſed in completing the expedition to Louiſiana. The number of tranſports have been deemed inſufficient, four more have been engaged. General Victor is printing at the Hague, the Proclamations and addreſſes which are to be iſſued upon his arrival.