permitted to act, is it not of some importance, that the most eminent men should be selected for the offices of President and Vice-President? The President is elected for four years; he may die within that period—he may be removed from office, or he may become disqualified to execute its duties;—in either of these events the Vice-President succeeds to the power. Under the existing arrangement you will secure, as far as human prudence can accomplish it, the most eminent men for these two offices. Each candidate must be voted for as President, and if the electors fairly execute the constitution, they will give their votes for those men, who are the best qualified to administer the government. Thus, under every probable event, you will find one of the most eminent of your citizens at the head of your government.

But if the amendment prevails the case must be greatly changed. The man voted for as Vice-President will be selected without any decisive view, to his qualifications, to administer the government. The office will generally be carried into the market to be exchanged for the votes of some large state for President. And the only criterion which will be regarded as a qualification for the office of Vice-President, will be, the temporary influence of the candidate, over the electors of his state. It is in this manner you must expect to obtain a man to fill the second office in the government, and who must succeed to the power of President, upon every vacancy. The momentary views of party may perhaps be promoted by such arrangements, but the permanent interests of the country are sacrificed.

Far from believing that experience has shown the impropriety of the existing mode of election, I am convinced, (so far as it has gone) that it has evinced the wisdom of the arrangement. The general success of the government is well understood, and exhibits a strong proof in favor of the constitution, as it now stands. But gentlemen speak of the late election of President by the House of Representatives, and by the manner in which that transaction is described, I am persuaded the circumstances which attended it, are not understood.—I was a member of the House of Representatives, at the time, and I take this occasion to declare, that no transaction ever was more grossly misrepresented, than that has been, in every part of this country. When the election commenced in the House of Representatives, every gentleman knew that it must terminate in the choice of one or the other of the two candidates, and the only question was, who could, or would think proper, to persist the longest in support of the candidate he had first chosen. The election was conducted with perfect mildness and good humor; not an expression or look of severity escaped from any one; and when the election was closed, the House proceeded to the ordinary business of the session, as though nothing of particular importance had taken place. The candidates, who on that occasion were brought into the House, were both selected by the same political party. It could not be of much importance to that party, which should be chosen, nor could it be supposed to be of vast importance to their opponents. The event therefore was certain that, an election would be made, and there did not exist the smallest hazard, that the government would be left without a President. Had the election terminated in favor of either candidate, those who brought them into the House must have been satisfied. If the controversy had arisen between two candidates of different political parties, the contest might have been a serious one, but that is a state of things, for which the present amendment makes no provision. The public agitation, which it is said by some gentlemen, existed at that time, was not called for by the occasion, and must have been harmless. The people of this country are not at this time, nor were they then disposed, to rebel against their constitution, and government. It was not only the right, but the duty of the House of Representatives, to select from the two candidates, the man, who in their opinion was best qualified to execute the office of President. And if the choice had fallen on the gentleman, who now presides in the Senate, "all United America," to use the favorite expression of the gentleman from Tennessee, (Mr. G. W. Campbell) would have acquiesced in the decision, and submitted without rebellion, or insurrection to the administration.

But there is one important lesson, which the experience of that election has taught the people of the United States—it is this, that it becomes the great and solemn duty of electors, upon all occasions to give their votes for two men, who shall be best qualified for the office of President. The electors do not, they cannot know which of their own candidates will succeed. They are therefore called upon by every sacred principle, to select the most eminent of their fellow citizens. They will be stimulated on all future occasions, by the experience of the last election, to do, what I trust they have heretofore done, to give their votes for two men, in either of whom they are willing to confide the executive power of the government. What then can induce us, to change the form of our elections? Some gentlemen have said a great deal about the voice of the people, and declared that the people demand the alteration.

This is a language too frequently used within these walls. The purposes for which it is used, I leave to others to explain; but it must be perfectly understood that the clamours of designing men are too often mistaken for the voice of the people. The people are rarely disposed to seek for changes whilst they feel and enjoy the blessings of their old establishments. Be this at it may, we have been sent into this House, to obey no voice, but that of our own consciences and judgments.

If gentlemen would, upon this occasion, divest themselves of those party considerations, which are so apt to swallow up deliberation, I cannot persuade myself, that they would agree to the resolution. When they view the deep wound which it inflicts on the interests of small states—when they see the wide door which it opens to corruption—the certain and pernicious effect which it must produce on the electors of a Vice President, and the destruction of that balance of power, among the states, which was settled by the constitution, they will at least hesitate, before they give a final vote for the passage of the resolution.

The security given by the constitution to the interests, and influence of the different states, in our great national concerns, forms the only basis on which the government can rest. Disturb those interests, and the government must tremble to its foundation. And although the effect may not be immediately perceived, yet the day will come, when it will be both seen and felt, and the large states who have now seized a moment of passion to grasp the power, may regret the hour, when they violated the compact which binds us together.

(To be continued.)

CONVENTION

Between his Britannic Majesty and the King of Sweden, signed on the 25th of July, 1803.

His Majesty the King of the united kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, and his Majesty the King of Sweden, being equally desirous of promoting the good understanding which happily subsists between them and of preventing the recurrence of those differences which have heretofore arisen respecting the eleventh article of the treaty of alliance concluded and signed at Whitehall, on the 21st day of October 1661, have named and authorised for that purpose, to wit: His Britannic Majesty, the right honorable Robert Banks Jenkinson, Lord Hawesbury, one of his said Majesty's most honorable privy council, and his principal Secretary of State for the Foreign department, and his Swedish Majesty, George Uldric Baron de Silverhjelm, his envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to his Britannic Majesty, and knight of the order of the polar star, who after having duly communicated to each other their respective full powers, have agreed upon the following articles:

Art. 1. In the event of one of the contracting parties being neutral, during a war in which the other contracting party may be belligerent, the vessels of the neutral party shall not carry to the enemy or enemies of the belligerent party, money, arms, or bombs with their fusees and other appurtenances, fire balls, gun-powder, matches, cannon balls, spears, lancets, pikes, halberts, guns, mortars, petards, grenadoes, musket rests, bandaliers, salt-petre, muskets, musket bullets, helmets, head pieces, brest plates, coats of mail, commonly called cuirasses, and the like kind of arms, or troops, horses, or any thing necessary for the equipment of cavalry, or pistols, belts, or any other instruments of war, or ships of war, and guards ships, nor any manufactured articles immediately serving for the equipment of the same, under the penalty, that if either of the contracting parties shall seize the same, these articles shall be liable to confiscation.

Art. 2. The cruizers of the belligerent power shall exercise the right of bringing in the ships of the neutral going to the ports of an enemy, laden with cargoes of provisions, or with cargoes of pitch, tar, hemp, and generally all unmanufactured articles whatever, serving for the equipment of ships of all descriptions, and likewise all manufactured articles serving for the equipment of merchant vessels (herring, iron in bars, steel, rose, copper, brass, and brass wire, deal planks not being oak, and spars, however, excepted,) and if the cargoes so exported in the bottoms of the neutral power, are the produce of the territories of the said neutral power, and going on account of the subject thereof, the belligerent power shall, in that case exercise the right of purchasing them, upon condition of paying a profit of ten per cent. upon a fair invoice price, or the fair market price in England or in Sweden respectively, at the option of the owner, with an indemnification for the detention and necessary expences.

Art. 3. If the cargoes specified in the preceding articles (not being enemy's property) are proceeding with a professed destination to the ports of a neutral country and are brought in under suspicion, that their true destination to the ports of the enemy, find it shall turn out upon due enquiry that they were really bound to neutral ports, they shall be at liberty to pursue their voyages, after being indemnified for their detention and necessary expences; unless the government of the belligerent country, from a reasonable apprehension of their falling into the hands of the enemy, should desire to purchase them, in which case the full price shall be paid, which they would have obtained in the ports of the netural country to which they were going, with an indemnification for detention and necessary expences.

Art. 4. Herrings, iron in bars, steel, rose copper, brass, and brass-wire, deal planks not being of oak, and spars, shall not be liable to confiscation or pre-emption on the part of the belligerent power, but shall be permitted to pass free in the ships of the neutral country, provided that they are not enemies property.

Art. 5. The present Convention shall be ratified by his Britannic Majesty, and by his Swedish Majesty, and the ratifications exchanged at London, in the space of two months, or sooner if it can be done.

In witness whereof, we the undersigned Plenipotentiaries of his Britannic Majesty, and of his Swedish Majesty, have signed the present Cavention, and have caused the Seals of our Arms to be affixed thereto.

Done at London, the 25th day of July, 1803.

MESSAGE of the Governor of OHIO on submitting the amendment to the Constitution.

To the Senate and House of Rrepresentatives of the State of Ohio.

It is with much pleasure I lay before you, at the request of the general government, a resolution of Congress proposing to the several state legislatures an amendment to the constitution of the United States, agreeably to the fifth article thereof, which provides that "Congress whenever two thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to this constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments, which, in either case shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three fourths thereof, as the one, or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress"—and as Congress at their present session, by virtue of the said recited article, and in conformity thereto, have proposed an amendment in lieu of the third paragraph of the first section of the second article of the said constitution of the United States, which proposed amendment is hereunto annexed, and which when ratified by the legislatures of three fourths of the several states, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the constitution of the United States.

The amendment, thus constitutionally proposed by Congress, to the several state legislatures, is so reasonable in itself, and so eminently calculated to obtain a fair expression of the public mind in one of its most important acts, that relying on the wisdom, virtue and patriotism of the present Assembly, I am well persuaded, you will rejoice in having an opportunity of manifesting the disposition of the state of Ohio, in affording its aid to accomplish so desirable an object.

EDWARD TIFFIN.

From a Paris Paper.

Account of a fire ball.

C. Biot, member of the National Institute, in a letter to the French minister of the interior, dated July 20, 1803, gives a detailed account of his enquiries, &c. respecting a Fire Ball which fell in the neighborhood of Laigle. From this, the following description of the phænomenon is deduced:—

On Tuesday, April 26, 1803, about one in the afternoon the weather being serene, there was observed from Caen, Pont-Audemer, and the environs of Alencon, Falaise, and Verneuil, a fiery globe of a very brilliant splendour, which moved in the atmosphere with great rapidity.

Some moments after there was heard at Laigle, and in the environs of that city to the extent of more than thirty leagues in every direction, a violent explosion, which lasted five or six minutes.

At first there were three or four reports like those of a cannon, followed by a kind of discharge which resembled a firing of musketry; after which there was heard a dreadful rombling like the beating of a drum. The air was calm the sky serene, except a few clouds, such as are frequently observed.

The noise proceeded from a small cloud which had a rectangular form, the largest side being in a direction from east to west. It appeared motionless all the time the phenomenon lasted. But the vapour of which it was composed was projected momentarily from the different sides by the effect of the successive explosions. This cloud was about half a league to the north-north-east of the town of Laigle: it was at a great elevation in the atmosphere, for the inhabitants of two hamlets a league distant from each other saw it at the same time above their heads. In the whole canton over which this cloud hovered, a hissing noise like that of a stone discharged from a sling was heard, and a multitude of mineral masses exactly similar to those distinguished by the name of *meteoric stones* were seen to fall at the same time.

The district in which the stones fell forms an eliptical extent of about two leagues and a half in length and nearly one in breadth, the greatest dimension being in a direction from south east to north west, forming a declination of about 22 degrees. This direction which the meteor must have followed is exactly that of the magnetic meridian; which is a remarkable result.

The largest of these stones fell at the south east extremity of the large axis of the elipse; the middle-sized one fell in the centre, and the smallest at the other extremity. It thereby appears that the largest fell first, as might naturally be supposed.

The largest of all those which fell weigh 17 1-2 pounds. The smallest I saw weigh about two gross, which is the thousandth part of the former.

The number that fell is certainly above two or three thousand.

In this account I have confined myself to a simple relation of facts; I have endeavored to view them as any other person would have done, and I have employed every care to present them with exactness. I leave to the sagacity of philosophers the numerous consequences that may be deduced from them; and I shall consider myself happy if they find that I have succeeded in placing beyond a doubt the most astonishing phænomenon ever observed by man.

WASHINGTON CITY

MONDAY, January 9, 1804.

NO NEWS is received from NEW-ORLEANS, by the mail of last evening.

The SENATE of the United States have determined that the form of their proceedings in the capacity of a court of impeachment, shall be distinct from those in their ordinary character; in consequence of which decision, a separate Journal is kept, and distinct adjournments take place.

House of Representatives.

FRIDAY, January 6, 1804.

Mr. BARD—For many reasons this House must have been justly surprised by a recent measure of one of the southern states—The impressions however, which that measure gave my mind, were deep and painful—Had I been informed that some formidable foreign power had invaded our country, I would not, I ought not, be more alarmed than on hearing that South Carolina had repealed her law prohibiting the importation of slaves.

In the one case we would know what to do—The emergency itself would inspire exertion, and suggest suitable means of repelling the attack—But here we are nonplussed and find ourselves without resource—Our hands are tied and we are obliged to stand confounded, while we see the flood gate opened, and pouring incalculable miseries into our country—By the repeal of that law, fresh activity is given to the horrid traffic, which has been long since seriously regretted by the wise and humane, but none have been able to devise an adequate remedy to its dreadful consequences.

Congress has but little power, or rather they have no power to prevent the growth of the evil—To impose a tax on imported slaves is the extent of their power; but every one must see that it is infinitely disproportionate to what the morality, the interest, the peace and safety of individuals, and of the public, at this moment, demand.

And though in regard to their present case the power of the general government may be insufficient to check the mischief, yet I hope they are disposed to discourage it, as far as they are authorised by the constitution—Therefore I beg leave to offer the House the following resolution:

Resolved, That a tax of 10 dollars be imposed upon every slave imported into the United States.

Mr. Varnum presented a representation from the officers of the militia of the district of Columbia, praying certain alterations in their militia law.

Referred to a select committee of five.

Dr. Mitchill from the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, to whom was referred that part of the message of the President that relates to measures for preventing the improper use of the American flag, reported a bill to amend an act entitled an act concerning the recording and registering American vessels.

Referred to a committee of the whole.

The House resumed the consideration of Mr. J. Randolph's motion to appoint a committee to enquire into the official conduct of JUDGE CHASE.

Mr. Smilie opened the debate.

He was followed by Dr. *Leib*, who moved to amend the motion so as to embrace an enquiry into the official conduct of Richard Peters, district judge for the district of Pennsylvania, who presided with judge Chase at the trial of Fries.

This amendment was agreed to—the yeas and nays being called were—Yeas 79—Nays 37.

The resolution, thus amended, was supported by Messrs. Findley, Jackson, Nicholson and Holland; and opposed by Messrs. Lowndes, R. Griswold, Elliot and Dennis.

About 4 o'clock an adjournment was carried, Ayes 61—Noes 43.

Saturday, January 7.

Mr. Nicholson, from the committee appointed on the memorial of Alexander Moultrie, agent for the South Carolina Yazoo Company, and of ——— agent of the Virginia Yazoo Company, made a report, going considerably into detail, and concluding with a resolution, adverse to the prayer of the memorialists.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

The House resumed the consideration of Mr. J. Randolph's motion for the appointment of a committee to enquire into the official conduct of Samuel Chase.

Messrs. J. Randolph, Eustis, Early, Smilie, Eppes, and Nicholson, spoke in favor of, and Messrs. Griffin, Thatcher, Huger and Dana against it.

Several amendments moved were rejected, when the question was taken on the resolution, varied only from that submitted by Mr. Randolph, so as to embrace an enquiry into the official conduct of Richard Peters, and carried by Yeas and Nays, in the affirmative—Yeas 80—Nays 40.

Philadelphia Jan. 4 1804.

Captain Berry, of the schooner Mechanic, arrived at New London, the 22d ult. in 34* days from Lisbon. Capt. B. informs, that at Lisbon he saw a letter from Ireland, to a gentleman in Lisbon, which gave information that an army of 30,000 French had made good their landing in the North of Ireland; he also informs, that he spoke a ship from Liverpool, which informed him that the Brest fleet were out.

[* *Captain Berry, must have sailed about the 18th November, which is six days later, than our accounts from England.*]

On the 27th of November the governor of Jamaica issued a proclamation ordering all foreigners, and the French in particular, to quit the island without delay, unless they immediately gave such security as the terms prescribed required. In consequence of which two ships were chartered to carry the French to New Orleans.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscribers indebted for the National Intelligencer are respectfully reminded that, according to the terms of that Paper, unless payment be immediately made, it will be discontinued. It will be recollected that an annual advance payment of five dollars is required.

S. THOMEE.

BEGS leave to inform his friends that he has removed his store from George Town to King street Alexandria, where orders in his line will be executed with punctuality and dispatch. Orders left at Mr. March's Book-store will be duly attended to.

GILDING

AND ENAMELLING ON GLASS.

A few doors above the Washington tavern—Looking glass and picture frames made and regilt.

NEEDLE WORK

Framed in the handsomest manner, and names done on glass.

S. Thomee, as a stranger being determined to establish in the line of his profession, solicits that encouragement alone which he trusts the reasonableness of his charges and his assiduity to business may entitle him to.

Window cornices handsomely gilt, and every in thing his line done to please the fancy of the owner equal to any imported.

N. B. He has some glasses and prints for sale on low terms.

Jan. 9——ep3m

NOTICE.

TOLLS will be collected for crossing the Bridge over the Eastern Branch, from Thursday the 12th inst. Any person wishing to engage by the year will please to apply to the Toll gatherer at the bridge.

The DIRECTORS.

January 9—3t