ries, for each and every ton of such vessel's burthen, if actually employed at sea, on one and the same voyage, in the prosecution of the said fisheries—

At least and not exceeding months, the sum of cents. If at least and not exceeding months, the sum of cents. If at least and not exceeding months, the sum of cents. And if so employed at sea in one and the same voyage during months and upwards, cents. Provided however, that no one vessel shall receive for any one voyage, a greater sum than dollars.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
December 2d, 1803.

SIR,

I had the honor to receive your letter of the 23d instant, and now enclose three statements respecting the Fisheries, which may be considered as supplementary to that transmitted last year.

It is proper to premise that this last mentioned document is, so far as it goes substantially correct, except in what relates to the whale fishery. This part of the statement was taken from the annual reports of the amount of district tonnage, and is found to embrace only the enrolled and not the registered vessels employed in that fishery. The enclosed statement (A) shewing the number of vessels, and the amount of tonnage thus employed during the years 1799, 1800, 1801, has been abstracted from the original returns made by the collectors, and is less defective than that of last year. Yet owing to the form of some of those returns, it cannot be considered as perfectly correct.

The statement (B) of the cod and whale fisheries for the year 1802, is liable to the same objections in what relates to the whale, but is believed to be correct in what relates to the cod fishery, as the result is drawn from the licences actually taken by fishing vessels. It does not, however, include the fishing boats under five tons burthen employed without licence, and not entitled by law to the allowance.

The statement (C) which is an abstract of the produce of the fisheries exported from the United States for the years 1791 to 1802, seems to coroborate the opinion that the whale-fishery has declined, and to establish the fact that the cod-fishery is rather progressing. It is, however, proper to observe, that exclusively of the amount consumed within the United States, that statement does not include the quantities of fish and oil exported immediately to other countries, by vessels employed in the fisheries, and without having been previously brought and landed in the United States. Nor is it perceived that any mode can be devised by which to ascertain with presision that amount for the following years.

For the purpose of laying hereafter annually before Congress all the information which our custom-houses can afford on that interesting subject, it will be necessary to instruct the collectors to make distinct returns embracing the various objects connected with it. The enclosed from (D) which has been prepared with that view, is submitted to the consideration of the committee; and such modifications or additions will be made to it as they may be pleased to suggest. It would be eligible to receive their observations early enough to enable this department to give the proper instructions and transmit to the collectors the form which may be ultimately adopted, before the commencement of year.

I have the honor to be,
With respect,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
ALBERT GALLATIN

Honorable
Benjamin Huger, Chairman, &c.

DOCUMENTS

ACCOMPANYING

" A BILL

Further to amend the act intituled " An act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States,"

Presented the 22d December, 1803.

[A.]

SIR,

I am instructed by the Committee of Ways and Means to submit the enclosed petition to you, and to request such observations upon it as you may deem material.

I have the honor to be,
With the highest respect,
Sir,
Yours,
JOHN RANDOLPH, jun.
12th Nov. 1803.

Albert Gallatin,
Secretary of the Treasury,

[B.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
5th December, 1803.

SIR,

I have the honor to return the petition of a number of owners of unoccupied lands in the state of New-York, together with remarks thereon, in which the propriety of some further modifications of the laws laying a direct tax is submitted to the committee.

I have the honor to be,
With respect,
Sir,
Your most ob't. serv't.
ALBERT GALLATIN.

John Randolph, jun. Esq.
Chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means.

[C.]

Remarks on the petition of sundry inhabitants of New-York, complaining of the operation of the law for levying a direct tax.

The inconveniences complained of by the petitioners apply to unoccupied lands, and relate either to the assessment or to the payment of the tax.

It is urged that the vague and uncertain descriptions of the lands assessed with the omission of the names of the owners in many instances, render it difficult, and sometimes impracticable, to identify the estate to which the tax was attached.

It will be recollected, on that head, that it was enacted by the ninth section of the act " to provide for the valuation of lands and dwelling houses, and the enumeration of slaves within the United States," that all persons in the United States owning or possessing any dwelling houses, lands, or slaves, should deliver to the assessor within whose assessment district they resided, separate written lists specifying such houses, lands and slaves owned by them respectively in each and every assessment district of the state or of any other state, and designating the state, county, parish, township or town where the property laid, the quantity of land, name of the owner, &c. And it was further provided, by the 12th section of the same act, that all lists of property, taken with reference to any other assessment district, than that in which the owner or possessor resided, should be immediately transmitted to the commissioner superintending the district, and from him to the principal assessor of the district within which such property was situated.

From thence it appears that, except in the case of sickness, or absence from his assessment district at the time fixed for delivering the lists, the uncertainty of the descriptions of lands is principally chargeable to the neglect of the owner himself, whose duty it was to prepare and deliver correct and descriptive lists of his property either lying in his own or in any other assessment district. For it was only in the case when no such list had, in the manner provided by the act, been transmitted to the principal assessor of a district, that it became the duty of the assessors of such district to prepare themselves, in conformity with the 15th section of the act, lists of houses, lands, and slaves, situated in the district, and not owned or possessed by any person residing within the same.

In that case, the assessors must have prepared the lists and described the lands in the best manner they could from the information they were able to obtain. In many instances, they may have mistaken the names of the owners, and when the owners were altogether unknown they have designated the land only by the number of the lot and by the name of the township or original patent. And it cannot be doubted that, either from want of information or from other causes, many vague, incorrect, and inapplicable descriptions of land are to be found in the lists of unoccupied lands, which have been or may hereafter be sold for non-payment of the tax, as well in the state of New-York as in all other states which contained large tracts of such lands.

It is, however, evident that, it is impracticable, at present, and especially in cases where the land has already been sold, to rectify the mistakes or incorrect descriptions of the assessment: and, however injurious the result may be to the parties, it does not seem, for the above mentioned reasons, that they have, in that respect, a right to expect redress from government. It must also be observed, that when the description of the land, without any mention of the owner, did not apply to the tract intended to be taxed; either, (as has happened in many instances) the land could not be sold, and the tax is lost to the United States; or, the sale could vest, in the purchaser, but a precarious title to the *real* tract; and in cases where lands were assessed in the name of other persons than the owners, it has been expressly provided by the 5th section of the act " to amend an act entitled " An act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States," that copies of the lists of property assessed, statements of the amount of taxes due thereon, and notifications to pay the same should, before the collectors could proceed to sell, be published for sixty days in four Gazettes of the state, if there were so many. From which last provision it appears that when such publication has been omitted, the sale was illegal, and that when it has taken place, the original proprietors may have recourse to it, in order to ascertain the amount of their taxes, even when, as is suggested, the collectors refuse to communicate lists of the lands sold by them.

The petitioners, in the next place, complain that they cannot avail themselves, by a timely repayment of the tax, costs and interest, of the right reserved to them by law of redeeming, within two years after the sale, those lands which may have been sold for non-payment of the tax; because the collectors to whom that payment was directed to be made, allege in some instances that their office no longer exists, and sometimes refuse to exhibit their lists of lands sold; and because the supervisor has no means whereby to compel such collectors to transmit transcripts of those lists, in conformity with their instructions.

The law appears to be defective as well in that respect as in that no mode has been provided for conveying the lands sold and remaining unredeemed; and although the mode of redress pointed out by the petitioners may not afford complete relief in all cases, nor perhaps be adapted to its full extent consistent with the rights already vested in bona fide purchasers, its general principles do not seem objectionable, and will enable the original proprietors in many instances to redeem their lands.

The following provisions are suggested to effect that object.

1st. That the supervisor, or officer to whose office the duties of supervisor have been annexed, and, in those states where no such officer may exist, the marshal should alone be authorized to make deeds for lands sold for non-payment of taxes and remaining unredeemed.

2dly. That the collectors should within months after passing the proposed act, when the land has been previously sold, and within months after the completion of sales made subsequent to the date of such act, transmit to the supervisor, officer acting as supervisor, or marshal, as the case may be, correct transcripts of the lists of lands sold for non-payment of taxes, specifying the land as described by the assessment, the quantity of land sold, the amount of tax, charges and costs for which it was sold, and the name of the purchaser; and designating also such tracts of said lands which may have been redeemed, in conformity with the law, by the original proprietors, or for their benefit; and that they should also, within the same time, pay over to the said officer the amount of monies paid by or for such proprietors, and which shall not by the collectors have been already repaid to the purchasers; under penalty of dollars in case of failure on their part either of transmitting such transcripts or of paying over such monies; and that a reasonable allowance, to be repaid in case of redemption by the original proprietor, should be made to them for transcribing and transmitting those lists.

3dly. That no deeds should be executed to the purchasers of lands thus sold, unless such lands are stated in the transcripts received from the collectors, or unless the purchaser shall have delivered within a limited time to the officer authorized to make deeds, a receipt from the collector for the purchase money, dated within not more than subsequent to the sale, and specifying distinctly the original description of the land assessed and the quantity sold.

4thly. That deeds should be executed to the purchaser by the officer authorised to do the same, provided that the preceding provision shall have been complied with, unless the original proprietor or some person in his name and for his benefit shall within after passing the act (or after the date of the sale, or after the receipt either of the transcripts from the collectors, or of the collector's receipt from the purchaser) have either repaid to the officer the amount of the tax, charges, costs and interest as directed by law, or produced to him a receipt from the collector for such repayment, dated within not more than subsequent to the passing of the proposed act: in which case the purchaser shall be entitled to receive the said amount from the officer or collector accountable for the same.

The three first provisions do not appear to be liable to any well grounded objection: but, in order to fix the details of the last, it is necessary previously to decide the question whether under the terms of the existing laws, a right to the land absolutely vests in the purchaser at the expiration of two years after the sale, so as to preclude Congress from extending the time of redemption beyond that term. The modifications of which the provision, fixing the time when deeds for lands unredeemed may be made, is susceptible, must necessarily depend on the opinion which shall be formed by the committee on that subject.

Respectfully submitted,
ALBERT GALLATIN.

Treasury Department,
5th December, 1803.

WASHINGTON CITY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11.

The committee appointed to enquire into the official conduct of Samuel Chase and Richard Peters, are messrs. J. Randolph, Nicholson, J. Clay, Early, R. Griswold, Huger and Boyle.

The Senate of Pennsylvania have agreed to the amendment to the constitution. The ratification of that state is therefore complete.

The legislature of Virginia have likewise ratified.

St. *George Tucker* is appointed a judge of the court of Appeal of Virginia, in the room of Edmond Pendleton deceased.

Extract of a letter from a respectable character at Natchez, dated December 23d, 1803.

The mounted infantry from the state of Tennessee have arrived here, having sustained without a murmur the fatigue of a march from 5 to 800 miles of which upwards of 400 is a wilderness.

ANOTHER.—Five hundred volunteers from Tennessee have arrived at Natchez in good health and spirits—they suffered much in the wilderness for want of forage and provision—they are ordered to halt at that place.

Extract of a letter from Annapolis, dated, January 6, 1804.

" It is expected the legislature of this state will close the session on to-morrow—very few bills of public utility have passed—the amendment to the constitution of the United States relative to the election of President and Vice President, after considerable opposition by the federalists in our House passed, it had no opposition in the Senate.—The Turnpike road bill after occupying the attention of both Houses, for several days, was at last refered to the next session—The Susquehanna Canal company, made a proposition to grant them the privilege to raise the tolls on the Canal; and they would relinquish their right to the half tolls on the bed of the river which was acceded to by both Houses, and a bill passed to that effect to make the bed of the river a free passage. The bill to abolish the General Court, was rejected by our House by a majority of four votes—Those bills which I have mentioned are the principal bills which have occupied the attention of the legislature—and much time has been spent in both Houses in debating them."

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, January 9, 1804.

The resolution offered by Mr. Bard, for the imposition of a tax of ten dollars upon every slave imported into any part of the United States, was taken up and referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday.

The House resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the bill further to amend the act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States, Mr. *Dawson* in the chair.

The committee rose and reported several amendments, which were ordered to lie on the table.

TUESDAY, January 10, 1804.

Mr. *Nicholson*, from the committee appointed for that purpose, reported a bill to provide for the further protection of American seamen.

Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. Nicholson also reported a bill for the better direction of the collectors of the respective ports of the United States, in granting protections, &c.

Read twice and referred to a committee of the whole to-morrow.

A bill to authorize the courts of the United States to appoint commissioners to take depositions, &c. was read twice and referred to a committee of the whole on Thursday.

The committee, on the memorial of the legislature of Tennessee, respecting boundaries, made a report, recommending the appropriation of dollars for an Indian treaty.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday.

Mr. J. Clay moved the appointment of a committee on the petition of sundry citizens of Washington in December, 1801, respecting the erection of a bridge over the Potomac.

Referred to a select committee of three.

Mr. J. Randolph, from the committee of Ways and Means, presented a bill for the relief of the captors of the Moorish ship Mishouda, and referred to a committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. J. Randolph, resolved that the committee appointed to enquire into the official conduct of Samuel Chase and Richard Peters, be empowered to send for persons, papers and records.

The committee on the petition of William H. Harrison, made a report that it ought to be rejected.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Friday.

Mr. Early, from the committee of Accounts, reported a resolution directing that in future the stationary used by members shall be drawn on the order of each member, and entered in a book to be kept by the door keeper.

Agreed to.

The House took up the amendments of the committee of the whole to the bill further to amend the act to lay and collect a direct tax within the United States, and having agreed to the same, with amendments, ordered the bill to a third reading on Thursday.

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.

CAUTION.

WHEREAS in the month of September last, money was obtained from two gentlemen of my acquaintance in the states of New-Jersey and Delaware, by a person who assumed the name of James Nicholson, and called himself my brother, I have thought proper to state, with a view of explaining any other impositions of a similar nature which have may been practised, & to prevent such as may be attempted hereafter, that for the last four years, my brother James Nicholson has been but little in the United States, and that he sailed from Philadelphia in the month of April last for Canton, where it is presumed he now is. One of the letters in which application for money was made, is in my possession, and is a palpable forgery.— Printers in the middle states may possibly render a service, by inserting this advertisement in their papers.

JOSEPH H. NICHOLSON.
Jan. 11.

In the case of EZEKIEL KING, an insolvent debtor.

SIX months from the first day of December next is limited and appointed for the creditors to bring in and exhibit their claims to the trustee. This order to be published in the National Intelligencer once a month during said six months. By order of William Cranch, esquire, assistant judge of the circuit court of the district of Columbia.

URIAH FORREST, Clk.

The subscriber having been appointed trustee in the above case, requests the creditors to exhibit their claims, at his office, within the limited period.

ROBERT W. PEACOCK.
Jan. 11—1am6m

To the Public.

PROPOSALS are issued, and preparations are making, for publishing a Newspaper, twice a week, in the City of New Orleans, to be entitled

" *THE UNION,*
Or New-Orleans Advertiser and Price Current."

From which it is proposed that a Country Paper should emanate once a week.

Conditions of the country paper:

1. " The UNION" will be published every week, on a sheet equal in size and quality to the daily papers in the Atlantic cities, printed with a suitable type.

2. The price of " The Union, or New-Orleans Advertiser and Price-Current," will be five dollars a year, to be paid half-yearly in advance.

3. The publication of this paper will commence as soon as the materials, which are now on their way to New-Orleans, can be received.

The objects of this paper are—to communicate to our fellow-citizens of the United States, early accounts of the important occurrences in New-Orleans and Louisiana; to disseminate such statistical information of that newly acquired territory as may come within our knowledge; to convey to the distant merchant and planter, a correct list of the prices of the principal articles of produce and merchandize, offered for sale in New Orleans; and generally to diffuse such information as falls within the province of a newspaper and price-current.

The politician, the merchant, and he who seeks for general information, must alike be impressed with the importance of a well conducted press, upon correct principles, at this important point of the union: Under these impressions, with great deference we submit the above proposals to our liberal and enlightened fellow-citizens.

J. LYON & CO. THE EDITORS.
Jan. 11.

N. B. Subscriptions to the Union received at the post-office Washington city.

Conveyancer's Office.
THOMAS HERTY,

Grateful for past favors, informs his friends and the public, that he continues to prepare CONVEYANCES OF LAND and every other species of DEED or INSTRUMENT in the line of his profession, with legal precision, and on moderate terms, Titles investigated, &c.

*** A choice selection of lots on the Pennsylvania avenue and in other desirable situations in the City to lease or sell.

N. B. Herty's Abridgment of the laws of Maryland in 1 vol. and Herty's Digest of the laws of the United States in 2 vol. for sale at the above office.

City of Washington, April 1st 1awt.