Vast abundance and rapidly accumulating riches, often tend to excite selfish and infecting principles, strengthen the desires of the avaricious to hoard, and induce the profligate to extend the sphere of their licentious indulgence; thus dissipating and demoralizing a people, and sometimes entirely destroying their virtue. The laws of neutrals we consider ourselves bound to observe; and whenever individuals have the temerity to infringe them, the consequences must entirely rest with themselves.

The regulation of the militia claims, and will receive our early attention; and we indulge the hope, that we shall be enabled to apply those remedies to existing inconveniences which are suggested by your Excellency.

We receive with pleasure the information that the state prison will speedily be prepared for the reception and confinement of convicts who are sentenced to hard labor. As the management of the prison will be under the immediate inspection of the government, we cannot doubt that due attention will be given to preserve the health of the prisoners, and prevent extortion and all unnecessary rigor and severity. While it is agreed that the power of pardoning offences, after conviction, includes the right of granting pardons upon condition that the offenders shall be confined to hard labor during a specified term, when favorable circumstances appear in the criminal's case, it will be proper to soften the rigor of the law. To aid the executive in the exercise of this power, every necessary act will, we believe, be passed by the legislature.

All measures which have a tendency to prevent the repetition of the high crime of robbery, which has recently excited great alarm among the citizens of this commonwealth, and to bring the perpetrators of it to punishment, will be readily adopted.

The account given of the conduct of the executive, relative to the demand of this commonwealth against the United States, for the ordnance and military stores, delivered for their use, is entirely satisfactory to this House.

The article of amendment proposed by congress to be added to the constitution of the United States, will be duly considered. We shall enter upon and pursue the discussion of this subject, under impressions of the highest respect & veneration for an instrument so valuable as the constitution of the United States; the deliberate production of our first and long tried patriots, united with our most enlightened and experienced statesmen.

Any other communications, which your excellency may make to us, will receive our prompt attention; and while we entertain the highest esteem for the person and character of your excellency, we shall cherish sentiments of mutual friendship for each other, and avoiding all personal disagreement or party discord, it will be our endeavor undeviatingly to pursue those objects, which may conduce to the public peace, prosperity and safety.

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE.

An Act to prevent the evil practice of DUELING.

Whereas from a false sense of honor, the inhuman, injurious and detestable practice of dueling has been too often and unhappily resorted to as a mode of adjusting or settling differences of small magnitude between individuals:—And whereas, this barbarous and savage conduct has of late obtained a great degree of prevalence to the destruction of the lives of some valuable members of society, and involving the feelings of others who from principle and respect for the laws of their country, will not engage in this pernicious practice: Be it therefore enacted by the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Mississippi territory in General Assembly convened, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passing of this act, if any persons shall deliver, offer or send any challenge in writing, verbally or otherwise, to fight a duel, or shall accept such challenge, or shall fight a duel, and neither of the parties be killed, or shall be the bearer of such challenge, knowing the same to be such, the person or persons so offending, their aiders or abettors, and each of them, shall on conviction thereof, be fined in the sum of one thousand dollars, and be imprisoned twelve callender months, and be rendered incapable of holding any office of honor, profit or trust under the government of this Territory for and during the term of five years from the time of such conviction.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That if any person or persons residing or being in this territory, shall promote, concert, plan or in any manner encourage the fighting of a duel between persons residing or being in this territory, whether the same duel be fought or not within this territory or elsewhere, such person or persons shall be subject to the pains and penalties prescribed in the preceding section of this act.

Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That if any person residing or being in this territory, do hereafter actually fight a duel, and either of the combattants be killed, the survivor, with such other person or persons who may have aided or assisted in the said duel, shall be deemed guilty of wilful murder, and on conviction thereof shall suffer death.

Sec. 4. And whereas persons guilty of the crimes specified in the foregoing section escape punishment through want of sufficient testimony, occasioned by the secret combinations of the parties concerned: Be it therefore further enacted, when other evidence cannot be had of offences committed against this act, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace upon his own knowledge, or strong suspicion of such offences, or on credible information thereof to him given on oath or otherwise, to issue a summons, or at his discretion a warrant, in the nature of a Capias against any person or persons suspected to be concerned in such offences, which summons or warrant shall be returnable before one or more justices of the peace, who are hereby empowered, if necessary, to issue interrogatories in the premises to such person or persons, and to compel them to answer the same fully upon oath, and in case of their refusal, to cause them to be confined until they shall comply; provided, that the person or persons so answering fully and satisfactorily, shall be wholly and entirely released and discharged from all manner of punishment for such offence or offences as he or they may be implicated in, by his or their answers as aforesaid; and the justices before whom such testimony is delivered shall take recognisance or recognisances of such person or persons, binding him or them to appear at the succeeding superior court for the district in which the offender or offenders shall reside as in other cases.

Sec. 5. And be it further enacted, That each and every justice of the peace and attorney general in this territory is hereby enjoined to carry this act into strict execution, and prosecute all offenders within the meaning thereof. And if any justice of the peace or attorney general, having knowledge or information of any offence committed against this act shall fail to perform the several duties required of them respectively, such neglect of duty is hereby declared to be a misdemeanor, and for which such justice or attorney general shall be removed from office, and be rendered incapable of holding any office of honor, trust or profit under the government of this territory, for and during the term of two years thereafter.

Sec. 6. And be it further enacted, That all fines and forfeitures which shall be incurred under this act, shall be collected by the sheriff of the particular county where such offender or offenders reside, and paid by him into the territorial treasury.

Sec. 7. And be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts coming within the purview and meaning of this act, shall be and the same are hereby repealed. Approved Nov. 11, 1803.

REPORT.

The committee to whom was referred two petitions, one from the legislature of the Mississippi Territory, and the other from sundry residents and claimants of lands on the Albama river, and of the east side of the river and bay of Mobile, praying Congress to confirm certain claims to lands therein specified—

REPORT—

The claims stated in the abovementioned petitions, are as follow:

The first class of claims is founded upon a warrant of survey granted by the Spanish government, and in consequence thereof the lands actually surveyed, and the proprietors furnished with a plat and certificate by the surveyor, executed previous to the 27th of October, 1795; which species of title the petitioners say, the inhabitants have been in the habit of considering as an absolute right, although not completed by patent; and that such titles have been permitted to descend by inheritance, or to be transferred by sale, although no improvement or actual settlement had been made.

The second is to lands which had been cultivated and improved for many years, but by the rotation of crops and the necessary repose to be given to the soil, the cultivation thereof had been discontinued during the year 1795.

The third is to lands lying east of the Tombigby river, on which are settled a considerable number of persons, holding such rights as are customary in other parts of the territory, and to which the petitioners state the Indian title has long since been extinguished.

The fourth is to lands held by warrant of survey and improvement, the claimants being minors, in whose name, the petitioners state, their parents had preferred making application to the Spanish government for lands, on which large improvements are now comfortably settled.

In the third condition of the first article of the "Articles of agreement and cession" between the United States and the state of Georgia, it is provided, "That the United States, for the period and until the end of one year after the assent of Georgia to the boundary established by this agreement shall have been declared, may, in such manner as not to interfere with" other stipulations specified in that agreement. "dispose of or appropriate a portion of the lands" ceded by that agreement, "not exceeding five millions of acres, or of the proceeds of the said five millions of acres, or of any part thereof, for the purpose of satisfying, quieting, or compensating for any claims other than therein before recognized, which may be made to the said lands, or to any part thereof. It being fully understood that if any act of congress making such disposition or appropriation, shall not be passed into a law within the above mentioned period of one year, the United States shall not be at liberty thereafter to cede any part of the said lands on account of claims which may be laid to the same, other than those recognized by the preceding conditions, nor to compensate for the same; and in case of any such cession or compensation, the present cession of Georgia to the right over the lands thus ceded or compensated for, shall be considered as null and void, and the lands thus ceded or compensated for, shall revert to the state of Georgia.

In the first section of an act passed at the last session of Congress, entitled "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," it is enacted, "That any person or persons, or the legal representatives of any person or persons, who were resident in the Mississippi territory, on the 27th day of October, 1795, and who had prior to that day obtained either from the British government of West Florida, or from the Spanish government, any order or warrant of survey for lands lying within the said territory, to which the Indian title had been extinguished and which were on that day actually inhabited and cultivated by such person or persons, or for his or their use, shall be confirmed in their claims to such lands in the same manner as if their titles had been completed: *Provided however*, that no such incomplete title shall be confirmed, unless the person in whose name such warrant or order of survey had been granted, was at the time of its date either the head of a family or above the age of twenty-one years."

In the second section of the act aforesaid, it is further enacted, "That to every person, or to the legal representative or representatives of every person who, being either the head of a family, or of twenty-one years of age, did on that day of the year 1797, when the Mississippi territory was finally evacuated by the Spanish troops, actually inhabit and cultivate a tract of land in the said territory not claimed by virtue either of the preceding section or of any British grant, or of the articles of agreement and cession between the United States and the state of Georgia, the said tract of land thus inhabited and cultivated, shall be granted."

The assent of Georgia to the boundary established by the articles of agreement and cession, having been declared on the 16th day of June, 1802, some doubts may possibly arise whether after the 19th day of June, 1803, Congress possessed a power to confirm any claims to lands within the Mississippi territory, other than such as are embraced by the appropriation in the eighth section of the act abovementioned. The first class of claims herein before mentioned not being recognised, and the fourth being expresly precluded by that act; your committee are of opinion, that the farther consideration of this part of the subject, ought to be postponed to the next session of Congress.

The second class of claims being, in the opinion of your committee, recognised and provided for by the act aforementioned, it belongs to the commissioners appointed under that act, to judge and determine between claims circumstanced as these are described to be in the petition, and those to lands which may have been altogether abandoned.

The third class of claims being founded on such principles as are recognised by the act aforesaid, and supported by such evidences as support claims to lands in all othor parts of the territory, and therefore in the opinion of your committee, fully embraced by the appropriation; the only question that remains is, whether it be expedient to confirm those claims, by repealing so much of the eighth section of the act aforementioned, as provides, "that no certificate shall be granted for lands lying east of the Tombigby river." It appears by a note from the Secretary of War, that the running and marking of the lines between the Choctaw and Creek nations and the United States in that quarter, have been completed—that these lines have been run in conformity to a cession made to the British government while that government possessed the Floridas and that some lands claimed by two or three settlers, are on the Indian side of the line to the eastward of the Mobile. Hence your committee conclude, that nearly all the lands clamed by the petitioners east of the Tombigby river, are out of the Indian boundary line, and that, of consequence, the Indian titles thereto are extinguished.

Whether good reason, besides a want of the information now obtained, may have produced an insertion of the prohibitory clause above cited when the law in question was enacted; your committee are of opinion, that no reasons for a continuance of that prohibition now exist, and therefore respectfully recommend the following resolutions:

Resolved, That so much of the eighth section of the act passed at the last session of Congress intituled "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," as provides, "that no certificate shall be granted for lands lying east of the Tombigby river," ought to be repealed: Provided, that no certificate shall be granted for any lands to which the Indian title has not been extinguished.

Resolved, That the commissioners appointed in pursuance of an act past at the last session of Congress, entitled "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," be authorised and required to make on or before the first day of December next, a full report to the Secretary of the Treasury, of all claims that may be laid before them, for lands held by warrant of survey and improvement, in cases where the claimants were minors, and the heads of families at the time such warrants were issued, with the circumstances which occasioned the issuing of such warrants, and the validity which has been considered as attached to them.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25.
BY AUTHORITY.

SCHEME OF A LOTTERY,
To build a Catholic Cathedral Church in the City of Baltimore.

				Dollars.
1	prize of			20,000
1	ditto			10,000
2	do	5000	is	10,000
5	do	1000	—	5,000
10	do	500	—	5,000
15	do	200	—	5,000
200	do	100	—	20,000
200	do	50	—	10,000
200	do	25	—	5,000
2500	do	20	—	50,000
4000	do	15	—	60,000
1	first drawn ticket after 2000, having a blank to its number,			500
1	do after 4000		do	500
1	do after 6000		do	500
1	do after 8000		do	500
1	do after 10,000		do	500
1	do after 12,000		do	500
1	do after 15,000		do	500
1	do after 18,000		do	500
1	do after 20,000		do	2,000
1	last drawn ticket, which may have a blank to its number,			4,000
7154	Prizes,			210,000
3,856	Blanks—Not two to a prize.			
21,000	Tickets, at 10 dollars each,			210 000

The laudable purpose of this lottery—the many very valuable prizes offered, and there not being two blanks to a prize, are considerations which give the managers reason to hope for a rapid sale of the tickets. The drawing will commence as soon as a sufficient number of tickets shall be sold to authorise it; and thirty days after the completion of the drawing, the prizes will be paid to the fortunate adventurers; subject to a deduction of fifteen per cent. Such prizes as shall not be demanded within twelve months after the drawing is finished, shall be considered as relinquished for the benefit of the church.

For the satisfaction of those at a distance, it may be necessary to mention that the managers have given bond to the mayor and city council in the sum of 120,000 dollars, for the due payment of the prizes which may be drawn.

Tickets to be had of the managers, or of such persons as may be appointed by them.

Managers.
Right rev. Bishop Carroll,
Rev. Francis Beeston,
Messrs. David Williamson,
Robert Walsh,
Charles Ghequiere,
Patrick Bennet,
Arnold Livers,
Luke Tiernan,
Frances I. Mitchell.

July 13, 1803. eoptf

*** The managers have lodged a number of tickets in the above lottery in the hands of Wm. Brent and James D. Barry for sale.

In the case of ROBERT ELLIS 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 and Washington Federalist once a month during the said six months. By order of Wm. Cranch, esq.

URIAH FORREST, Ck.

Notice is hereby given to the creditors of Robert Ellis above named, that the subscriber has been appointed Trustee in the above case, and their claims are required to be produced at the office of the subscriber within the limited period.

ROBERT W. PEACOCK

Nov. 25—1am6m

WASHINGTON CITY.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1.

Last evening a very brilliant BALL, numerously attended, was given by the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, at M'Laughlin's tavern, George Town, in celebration of the acquisition of Louisiana.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

MONDAY, January 30.

Mr. *Dawson* presented a memorial from the inhabitants of George Town, in opposition to one some time since presented, and praying for the establishment of a bridge across the Potomac from the lower part of the city to a point on the opposite shore; which was read and referred to a select committee appointed on that subject.

Mr. Leib said, we had heard much lately about the independence of the judges; that it had been a theme within the walls of this House, and the subject of animated discussion without them. To the *rational* independence of the Judiciary, he professed himself a friend, and to evince his sincerity he begged leave to submit to the consideration of the House the following resolution.

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to enquire into the expediency of providing by law against the appointment of Judges of the courts of the United States to other offices under the government.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. TENNEY in the chair, on the report of a select committee allowing further time to the owners of military land warrants to obtain and locate the same.

The committee agreed to the report, and the House concurred, and appointed a committee to bring in a bill.

A message was received from the Senate desiring a conference on the amendments to the bill making military appropriations.

The House agreed to the conference, and appointed a committee to conduct it.

The House took into consideration the resolution of Mr. Eppes for the appointment of a committee to bring in a bill for the discontinuance of the office of commissioner of loans in the several states.

A short debate took place. Messrs. Eppes and Smilie supported, and Messrs. J. Clay, Elliot and J. Randolph opposed the resolution, on which the Yeas and Nays were then taken—Yeas 52—Nays 59.

The House went into a committee of the whole, Mr. VARNUM in the chair—on the bill supplementary to the act to incorporate the inhabitants of the city of Washington.

The first section of the bill made the incorporation perpetual.

Mr. J. Randolph moved to limit its duration to five years from the end of the next session of congress.

Mr. Rodney supported and Messrs. Nicholson, J. Clay and Dennis opposed the motion, which was agreed to—Ayes 48—Nays 32.

On motion of Mr. Dennis a section was introduced declaring citizens competent witnesses in suits to which the corporation may be a party.

When the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading to-morrow.

Mr. J. Randolph, in the name of the committee appointed to enquire into the conduct of Samuel Chase and Richard Peters, stated that documents had been received by them which occupied a considerable bulk, the printing of which would considerably assist their investigation, by rendering them more convenient for perusal. He added that it would probably be necessary to print these papers for the information of the House when the report of the committee was made. He therefore moved the vesting in them authority to cause to be printed such papers as they might conceive proper.

Dr. Eustis suggested a doubt of the propriety of printing detached papers, which might produce an improper impression upon the public mind.

Mr. Nicholson observed that it would rest with the committee to preclude if they saw fit, a publication of the papers, though printed, until the report should be made, and remarked that this was the course pursued by the committee of investigation.

The motion was then carried—Ayes 59.

TUESDAY, January 31.

An engrossed bill supplementary to the act to incorporate the inhabitants of Washington was read a third time and passed without a division.

The House went into a committee of the whole—Mr. *Dawson* in the chair—on the *Salary Bill*.

Mr J. Randolph moved to fix the salary of the Secretary of state at 5,000 dollars per annum.

Mr. Elmer moved to fix it at 4,500 dollars.

On Mr. Randolph's motion, the com-