after be ready to allow them leave to fit, when the order comes up, they may move to difcharge them from the farther confideration of the refolutions. As they were then in the poffeffion of the committee he hoped their friends would vote in favor of their having leave to fit again.

Dr. EUSTIS hoped the committee would not obtain leave to fit again. If he underftood the decifion of the committee it implied the adoption of the principle that the claims in queftion may be compenfated out of the five millions without inveftigating the circumftances attending the paffage of the acts of Georgia of 1789, 1795, or 1796. Whether this decifion is juft or honorable will be decided by a higher tribunal than this Houfe. But, if ever refpect is due to the decifion of a majority, it is in this cafe after the opinions of gentlemen have been fo fully expreffed.—Why fhall the committee of the whole fit again? To debate a propofition, which they have determined not to confider, and which they have declared to have no bearing on the fubject before them? There can be no further difcuffion. Have not thefe refolutions fo far as regards their fubftance, been already fully advocated by their friends? It is not only confonant with the principles of juftice and honor—that juftice which regards the public intereft—but it is likewife confonant with the rules of the Houfe that when a bill and certain refolutions are referred, and the bill reported, which amounts to a fuperceffion of the refolutions, that leave fhould be refufed to the committee to fit again. The refolutions, in this inftance, were referred as the ground work of a fyftem hoftile to the bill. They were intended to declare the act of Georgia invalid, as a reafon for rejecting the bill. If fuch had been the defire of the Houfe, would they not have fufpended the bill, and have given the refolutions the inveftigation they merited? By taking up the bill, and rejecting the fubftance of the refolutions, the committee have given a proper fatisfaction to the mover and his friends. It is a misfortune that on this queftion thofe who generally act together are divided; but it is a misfortune from which no legiflative body, or fet of men is exempt. When fuch occafions do occur, it is the duty of the minority to fubmit, and not by unneceffary oppofition to widen the difference. If one gentleman is ftrong in his own opinion, he fhould have candor and indulgence for thofe who differ from him, and who may feel equal convictions of the truth of their own belief. A difpofition to leave the ground of reafon appears to me always to have a tendency to draw the attention of the Houfe from the merits of the queftion and to lead it aftray from the path of duty. It is not my perfonal intereft, faid Dr. Euftis, to advocate or oppofe thefe claims. I have no expectation of gain from their allowance or rejection. But while I allow to other gentlemen a facred regard to the public good, a fenfe of public duty, of honor and of juftice, I claim the fame refpect for myfelf and thofe who act with me, however different our opinions on this particular point. We are as confcious of our integrity as thofe who oppofe us. I am forry the character of this debate compels me to declare that I can confider no obfervation made during the courfe of it as perfonally applicable to me; and I wifh that the fame were the cafe with other gentlemen. There is indeed caufe for regret that any thing urged on this occafion fhould have been confidered perfonal. For myfelf, it is my practice to urge arguments grounded on the nature of the cafe, and not on the paffions or prejudices of others; and while I extend this right to others, I claim it for myfelf.

With regard to the refolutions they have been fully difcuffed by the mover and his friends. I confider fome of them as containing abftract propofitions from which the Houfe cannot diffent, as being univerfal principles in politics; others as of a doubtful nature; but the whole of them fo far as they are applied to the legiflature of a ftate, unwarrantable, impolitic, not to fay, unconftitutional. But I will fay when this Houfe adopts the language of abftract propofitions and applies it to the legiflature of a particular ftate we tread on dangerous ground. If it be faid, we barely fpeak our opinions, I afk whether we came here for that purpofe. No, we came here to legiflate. If the language is intended to apply to the legiflature of a particular ftate, I enquire whether this Houfe poffeffes any fuch power? Is it thereby intended to warn one ftate of her courfe of proceeding? Is it intended to guard any other ftate againft it? If fo the act is unconftitutional. Should therefore the refolutions be propofed again and again, with my prefent view of the fubject, I fhall confider it my duty to move the previous queftion. I am unwilling to decide upon them.—The more I confider them the more unwilling I find myfelf. They point to the fpecific act of a fovereign ftate: May there not be other acts of other ftates equally reprehenfible; and can we juftify to ourfelves as an impartial body the paffing on one and not on all. Are there not other legiflatures who have difpofed of the public lands in cafes where their own members were part owners. If there are, will not this be an act of partiality?

I hope I fhall not be underftood as the advocate of the Georgia tranfaction, or of any part of it, or of other legiflatures who have purfued a fimilar courfe. No. I am of opinion that it is inconfiftent with the honor and duty of a legiflator to convey land with one hand and receive it with another. But I appeal to gentlemen whether this has not been the practife. Knowing it to have been the practife, I am unwilling to exprefs the abhorrence I feel of this act, becaufe fuch an expreffion of opinion goes to involve others in guilt, in cafes where no fuch right of crimination conftitutionally belongs to Congrefs.

The courfe we are now purfuing is the true courfe, that which is founded in juftice and in found policy. It is to cover the tranfaction without approving it; to pafs the whole of its fcenes over in filence. Whereas we cannot confider the refolutions without going to the marrow of this foul wound, which every dictate of policy and wifdom prompts us to conceal. I confider this courfe as going forever to clofe this offenfive wound; to bury it in eternal oblivion. With this view I made the motion. It is immaterial to me whether the committee be refufed leave to fit again, or be difcharged from a confideration of the refolutions. So long as the refolutions live, I will with zeal oppofe their confideration; without faying that I will bring the Houfe to a vote. A gentleman may propofe what he pleafes, but it is for the Houfe to difpofe of it. I will oppofe their confideration, becaufe I fee in them nothing of public utility, becaufe they are a fource of perfonal irritation, and becaufe wifdom dictates that the whole tranfaction to which they relate fhould be thrown into oblivion.

Mr. DAWSON concifely advocated the confideration of the refolutions; he thought it but fair that an opportunity fhould be given to their friends to fupport them.

Mr. SMILIE faid he had avoided through the whole of the difcuffion confidering the merits of the refolutions. He would ftate at this time one reafon why he was unwilling to vote upon them. Congrefs fhould be extremely careful when they were eftablifhing their own rights, not to violate the rights of others. Thefe refolutions declare the act of Georgia under which the claims in queftion are preferred a nullity. I afk what will be the effect of this declaration on the claims when they are brought before a court of juftice? Can they have the fame chance of juftice after this folemn decifion of the Houfe of Reprefentatives of the union. It is acknowledged to be wrong to biafs a jury; and it is well known that printers are punifhed for publications during a pending fuit. Can any thing they may publifh have fuch an effect as the decifion of the national legiflature? This is the reafon, faid Mr. S. why I am reluctant to exprefs any opinion on thefe refolutions.

Mr. J. RANDOLPH enquired whether if leave were refufed to the committee of the whole to fit again, the refolutions would not therefore be confidered as before the Houfe.

The *Speaker* faid they would.

On granting leave the Yeas and Nays were taken, and were, Yeas 8—Nays 101.

The queftion was then taken, by Yeas and Nays, on confidering the refolutions, and carried in the affirmative, as follows:

YEAS—Meffrs. Alfton, jun. Archer, Bard, Bedinger, Blackledge, Boyd, Brown, Bryan, Butler, Cafey, Claiborne, J. Clay, M. Clay, Clopton, Conrad, Dawfon, Earle, Findley, Gillefpie, Goodwyn, Griffin, Hammond, A. Hanna, Hafbrouck, Hoge, Holland, Jones, Leib, J. Lewis, jun. Lucas, M'Cord, Meriwether, A. Moore, N. R. Moore, Newton, jun. Nicholfon, Olin, Purviance, J. Randolph, T. M. Randolph J. Rea, [of Pennfylvania] Richards, Rodney, Sammons, Sandford, Sloan, Southard, Stanford, Stanton, Steward, Thompfon, A. Trigg, J. Trigg, Van Horne, M. Williams, Winn, and Winfton—57.

NAYS—Meffrs. Baldwin, Betton, Bifhop, Boyle, Chamberlin, Chittenden, Claggett, Crowninfhield, Cutler, Cutts, Dana, Davenport, Dickfon, Dwight, Elliot, Elmer, Euftis, Fowler, Gregg, G. Grifwold, R. Grifwold, Haftings, Hough, Huger, Jackfon, Knight, Livingfton, Lyon, N. Mitchell, S. L. Mitchill, Morrow, Plater, Skinner, Smilie, J. C. Smith, Stedman, Stephenfon, Taggart, Tenney, Thatcher, Thomas, Van Renffelaer, Varnum, Verplanck, Wadfworth, and L. Williams.—46.

The Houfe then adjourned.

(To be continued.)

FOR SALE,

For negotiable Notes.

A good Cook, with her child about twelve months of age. Enquire of the printer.

August 10—3t

National Intelligencer.

Description of the river Miffiffippi and its Delta, with that of the adjacent parts of Louifiana. By William Dunbar, of the Natchez, communicated by the Author, a Member of the Society; through the President.

[*Continued.*]

The inundation takes place during the feafon that the crops are under cultivation, and in the precife time when required for perfecting the culture of rice, which is therefore moft conveniently placed in the rear of the plantation; nor is the inundation neceffary for any other fpecies of crops, but on the contrary is often extremely injurious by its excefs: the embankments are frequently ruptured, and the crops of many plantations are totally loft: the lives of the inhabitants are fometimes in danger from the difruption of their levees in the night time; this however is but a rare cafe. The planters poffefs great experimental knowledge in the art of arrefting the progrefs of this devaftation, and even entirely fhutting up the breach which has been made by the torrent of the Miffiffippi. They begin their operations at fome diftance from the extremities of the breach at found parts of the embankment, and, advancing in form of a crefcent towards the margin of the river, where they know the land to be moft elevated, they are often enabled to fhut out the river by this procefs, the greater part of the work being thus carried on in water comparatively ftill; whereas every inch of the breach is acted upon by a furious torrent, becoming every inftant deeper & wider. A very great breach happened during Governor Miro's adminiftration about three leagues above New-Orleans; an immenfe body of water advanced on its rear and threatened to drown the city; the people were difcouraged.—The Governor called out all the affiftance which could be fpared from town and country and placed himfelf in the row of common labourers, transferring his fod from hand to hand, to thofe who, from their fuperior knowledge in this fpecies of hydraulic architecture, were employed in conftructing the provifional embankment: they did not fucceed in completely fhutting up the breach, but the quantity of overflowing water was reduced to one quarter, and the extremities of the new levee were fortified until the retiring of the waters; vaft quantities of fifh were precipitated upon the land, which corrupted and filled the air with a peftilential ftench. The town was unufually fickly that feafon.

The Miffiffippi is already celebrated on account of the falubrity of its waters: in which refpect, no doubt, it rivals the Nile. It feems to be admitted (perhaps without due inveftigation) that it poffeffes properties favorable to the multiplication of the human fpecies by promoting fecundity; it is probably more certain that the ufe of its waters contributes to banifh feveral diforders common in other countries: the gout would be unknown were it not introduced by ftrangers; and inftances of the ftone and gravel are extremely rare. The Creoles who drink this water are a comely race, both male and female, of middle ftature, and handfome perfons; the males are ingenious, active, bold and enterprifing; fond of hunting and other laborious amufements, and capable of enduring great fatigue: the gracefulnefs and beauty of the ladies are univerfally acknowledged.

The water of the Miffiffippi is drunk in great purity by the firft clafs of French planters, and inhabitants of New-Orleans; it is fuffered to depofit by repofe (in large earthen jars containing a hundred or more gallons) its fediment and feculencies; the precipitation is fometimes accelerated by bruifed peach ftones and kernels. Volney fays that in Egypt bruifed bitter almonds are applied to the fame purpofe; certainly the procefs of the Chinefe is much neater by means of allum. The inhabitants generally employ two jars, in order that one may be filled while the other is in ufe, by which means they always drink the pureft water: thofe who are long in the habit of drinking the Miffiffippi water, cannot immediately reconcile themfelves to the tafte of any other.

When the river is low and the current extremely gentle, the water poffeffes but a very flight degree of turbidnefs; the current is however at all times fufficiently ftrong to roll an immenfe body of water into the ocean, in which refpect the diminutive Nile cannot bear a comparifon; the waters of the latter being frequently in a ftate of *corruption immediately before the commencement of the inundation: the Nile becomes alfo fhallow in many places, whereas a fhip of the line might find, at all times, fufficient water 6 or 700 miles up the Miffiffippi, were the impediment on the bar removed,

There is a very ftriking difference in the momentum of the waters of the two rivers at their entrance into the fea; that of the Miffiffippi is at all times fufficient to preferve 17 feet of water upon the bar of the principal branch, whereas the mouths of the great branches of the Nile are fo choaked up with mud & fand, that fmall coafting veffels can fcarcely enter, & this is practicable only through a very narrow winding channel, which refembles very much the entrance into many of the creeks, which to the weftward of the Miffiffippi ferve to difembogue the waters of the inundation.

The Miffiffippi has its Delta as well as the Nile, but that of the former is much more extenfive than that of the latter; if we fuppofe the apex of the Delta of Egypt to be at Grand Cairo, near which the high land diverges confiderably to the eaft, its latitude from fouth to north will be nearly a degree and a half; and its bafe, along the fea coaft, about two degrees: if we admit the Delta of the Miffiffippi to commence only at Natchez (although there is an immenfe body of alluvial land above) oppofite to which the high lands on the weft of the valley open to the right with a rapid divergence, its latitude will be not lefs than two degrees and a half, and its longitude on the coaft, about three degrees; hence it refults that the fuperficial content of the Miffiffippi Delta is to that of the Nile as 5 to 2, which may be adopted as the proportional magnitude of the two rivers, though there is reafon to believe that our Nile pours into the ocean a much greater proportion of water than what we have ftated, and that the Delta of the Miffiffippi would have been much more extenfive, were it not placed in the tract of a perpetual vortex formed by an immenfe current in the fea, occafioned by the tropical eaft winds forcing the ocean againft the oblique coaft of America, which produces a continual flux between the main land and the ifland of Cuba, giving birth to the well known gulph ftream; but a great body of this current, rufhing on with impetuofity in a direct line northerly, impinges againft the weft coaft of Eaft Florida, and is there deflected and dafhed along the coafts of Eaft and Weft Florida, Louifiana and Mexico; and by the promontory of Yucatan is thrown again into the main current, thus conftituting a permanent vortex, which fweeps along a great proportion of the fpoils of the Miffiffippi, as faft as they are projected into the ocean: in confirmation of this pofition it may be remarked that the bay of Campechy, fo favourably fituated for the reception and retention of alluvial matters, is exceedingly embarraffed with fhoals of fand and mud; fo that veffels of moderate burthen can fcarcely get within two miles of any part of the coaft: this evil is upon the encreafe, and can only be attributed to the operation of the current, taking up every moveable matter along our caft, and depofiting it in every bay or creek in contact with the circumference or the vortex: there are no alluvial rivers flowing into the bay of Campechy; but the Rio del Norte, and one or two others of lefs note, contribute no doubt to the production of this effect, by throwing their mite into the ocean.

Purfuing our parallel of the two rivers, we fhall find that the Miffiffippi as well as the Nile, proceeds to the ocean by two permanent branches, that to the weft breaks off, about two or three miles below the Red river, and bears the Indian name of Chafalaya, or river of the Apeloufas: there is every appearance that this branch may have anciently been a continuation of the great Red river; the quantity of water delivered by the one and received by the other being nearly equal, and the general appearance of the banks and common breadth of the channels being very fimilar. The Chafalaya is dangerous for boats under the conduct of unfkilful pilots defcending the Miffiffippi; the velocity of the ftream paffing laterally out of the Miffiffippi, occafions an attraction (if the term may be admiffible) of all floating bodies at a confiderable diftance from the fhore; if the unwary or ignorant voyager falls within the fphere of this attraction, and his boat be not fufficiently manned to enable him to efcape, by taking an oblique courfe out of this unexpected fuction, he is precipitated into the weftern branch, heavy boats cannot regain the Miffiffippi; the lighteft muft be well manned to ftem the extreme rapidity of the current; the perpetual rifing of the bank and bed of the great river from the influence of the inundation, is probably the caufe of fo precipitate a defcent into the fmaller river. The Chafalaya was formerly, but is not now navigable into the country of the Apeloufas and Alacapas; the inconceivable quantity of drift timber which went down, had formed many iflands, which fo contracted the different channels, that at length they have been entirely fhut up, (not to the paffage of water, but) to the paffage of every kind of craft; there is faid to be at this time a floating bridge upon the Chafalaya, ten leagues along the courfe of the river, and continually accumulating by the caufe which produce it; fome parts of it are fo compact as to have an appearance of folidity; and vegetation has made confiderable progrefs thereon.† The Chafalaya in its progrefs through the Delta collects many other inferior ftreams, and before its junction with the ocean becomes, in certain fituations, a mile in width; it is faid to have nine or ten feet water on its bar; it is probably fuperior to the Pnatmetic branch of the Nile, but is not equal to one tenth part of the Miffiffippi. The mouth of the Chafalaya is probably diftant from the principal mouth of the Miffiffippi nearly 150 miles, and is now unnoticed; at fome future period its river will be crowded with veffels and boats tranfporting the rich harvefts of its ever productive foil.

**Volney.*

†*A certain extent of the Red River is in this fituation; the water is heard gurgling under foot, being completely concealed by a ftratum of timber upon which there is foil fufficient to fupport plants, and even trees of a moderate fize.*

FROM THE

ENQUIRER.

VINDICATION OF VIRGINIA.

No. III

Having examined fome of the moft interefting events of the American revolution; having attempted to fhow that all the querulous and illiberal efforts which have been made to tarnifh the laurels of Virginia, have only terminated in bringing them forth into brighter luftre; let us now approach the next celebrated epoch in our political hiftory, which has furnifhed the difcontented federalifts of the north with a fruitful theme of declamation and complaint. They have pleafed themfelves with thinking that the adoption of the federal conftitution, and the firft amendments which were propofed, have furnifhed them with the moft fatisfactory evidence, that Virginia has either acquired, or that fhe has been anxious to affume an exorbitant influence in the adminiftration of the national government. They have difcovered in this great æra of our political hiftory, three fources of complaint, two of which they have reprefented as peculiar to Virginia; the third as common to her with all the fouthern and weftern ftates. Why [they have demanded] did Virginia hefitate to adopt at once the federal conftitution; and why did fhe almoft in the fame breath, propofe fuch amendments to it, as would invalidate the political powers which it had confided to a federal head? By what principle of abftract juftice and reprefentative government, can the people of the fouthern and weftern ftates, prefume to juftify that article of the federal conftitution which gives them a political influence, proportionate to three-fifths of their negro population?—Happy is it for the Virginians, that they can again triumphantly recur to the hiftorical documents of their country, for the moft compleat juftification of their conduct, on the two firft of thefe charges! Happy is it for the fouthern and weftern ftates, that the immutable maxims of juftice, will bear them out in the exercife of that reprefentative right which the federal conftitution has conferred upon them!

Adoption of the Conftitution.

The following quotation from one of the northern papers, will fufficiently explain the grounds of the prefent and the fubfequent complaint. "Mr. Jefferfon nor any of his "fect" have ever made the energies and dignity of the federal government a part of their plan. They take a different and a more certain road to power and patronage. In one of his meffages he fays, that the particular ftates are invefted with all the needful powers for internal government, and feems to affign to the government of the union, only the fcraps and parings, fuch as concern not ourfelves merely, but are blended with foreign politics. To weaken the federal head, and throw back its proper authorities into the hands of the ruling faction—behold Jefferfon unmafked! this has ever been the policy of Virginia, and ever will be. It was for this reafon fhe came fo late and fo loath into the union. She abhorred the conftitution the moment it pretended to be a government, and fhe loft not one moment to infift that fuch amendments, fhould be added to it, as would reduce it as near as poffible, to the infignificancy of the old confederation; fhe wants fervile tools, not lawful fuperiors."*—How far does the hiftory of that period and the policy attributed to our ftate, go to fupport the ftatements and reafonings of this illiberal author?

Virginia was the firft ftate in the union, that propofed the expedient which ultimately led to the formation of the prefent admirable conftitution. She was the firft to propofe any effectual remedy, for the various calamities which accompanied her peculiar fituation, arifing from a want of credit, and from a want of fome general power to eftablifh a proper fyftem of commercial regulations. Commiffioners were appointed in 1785, by the Houfe of Delegates in Virginia, who fhould meet fuch as might be appointed in the other ftates, to form a fyftem of commercial regulations for the United States, and recommend it to the feveral legiflatures, for their adoption. When the commif-