the formation of a treaty with Great Britain. On the 20th of April, 1796, Congress authorised the President to continue the construction and equipment of two frigates of 44, and one of 36 guns; all authority under the preceding act having ceased with the cause that produced it; and appropriated the unexpended part of the previous appropriation of 688,888 dollars, and of 80,000 dollars appropriated for gallies. The same acts directs that "such parts of the perishable materials as may not be wanted for completing the three frigates" shall be sold, and the surplus of the other materials safely kept for the future use of the United States.

No further appropriation was made until the 1st of June, 1796, when, 5,000 dollars were appropriated for the pay and the subsistence of three captains.

On the 3d of March, 1797, 5,000 dollars were appropriation to a like purpose, and 172,000 dollars to finishing the frigates United States, Constitution, and Constellation.

These appropriations appear to have been made entirely with a view to prevent the United States from incurring any serious loss from the progress made in building the ships of war—Three of them were in considerable forwardness. These were directed to be finished, and an appropriation made for the pay of their captains who had a large share in superintending their construction.

In these successive acts we behold strong, and what may be considered indisputable evidence of the state of public opinion from the years 1789 to 1797; and of the opinion of the general government during the whole of the Washington administration, which terminated on the very day on which the last appropriation law was passed. Other contemporaneous evidences to this effect are not wanting: among which that which contains the most precise and pointed application will be found in a report made to Congress by Mr. Wolcott, Secretary of the Treasury in December 1796. The subject of the report is the imposition of a direct tax, which is preceded by a view of the demands likely to be made on the government for a number of succeeding years. Among these demands, Mr. Wolcott estimates two millions as necessary for the military and naval departments, including pensions; and adds "If it shall be found that the expences of the military and naval departments cannot be reduced below the above estimate, which, *though much to be desired, is far from certain*, the foregoing calculation (embracing other objects) will fall short of the real expence; it being morally certain, that the expences of civil government will hereafter considerably increase."

Here then we have the unequivocal declaration of Mr. Wolcott, a citizen of Connecticut, a federalist, the successor and disciple of General Hamilton, and the confidential officer of General Washington, that it was much to be desired that the military and naval expence should be reduced below two millions; the greater part of which being required by the army, leaves less than a million for naval purposes. The inference is, by no means, forced, that General Washington held the same opinion and had actually revised the report of the secretary before its submission to Congress.

These were the sentiments and measures of the WASHINGTON administration.

During the ensuing year Washington retired into private life: and in the farewell advice he gave, stamped with every mark of deliberation and wisdom, it is not a little remarkable that not a word is to be found on the subject of a navy. Is not his silence, on this solemn occasion, conclusive evidence of the little importance he attached to the Institution?

Such are the sentiments which prevailed, and the measures that were adopted, during the eight first years of the government under the Presidency of General Washington. It is important here distinctly to state that the whole appropriation for naval purposes during this period was 950,000 dollars.

On the 3rd of March 1797, Mr. Adams, borne on the tide of the prevailing politics, took the chair of state.

It is unnecessary to exhibit a detailed statement of the events that ensued. They are doubtless fresh in the recollection of the reader. The legislature and executive pushed forward, with equal zeal, the naval armament; many of the evils of war actually befel us, and all its complicated horrors stared us in the face. Without entering boldly into a state of war, by which we should have profited of its benefits as well as injuries, we were wasting, in an alarming degree, the resources which ought to have been husbanded for the last resort. In the short period of four years above ten millions were appropriated to the navy.

Thus stood affairs on the 3rd day of March 1801, the last day of Mr. Adams's administration, when a federal Congress passed a law for reducing the navy to thirteen frigates, of which six were directed to be kept in constant service, and the others to be laid up in ordinary. This measure was adopted on the express declaration of Mr. Stoddert, communicated by the President to Congress, that "should the United States be so fortunate as to terminate by an honorable treaty the differences with France, it would be good economy to sell all the [other] public vessels."

In obedience to this act, the first measure of the new administration was the sale of all the national ships beside the above thirteen frigates.

By the report of Mr. Stoddert made on this occasion, it is computed that an annual sum of 1,295,000 dollars would be requisite for the naval establishment. As it was on, and in consonance with, this report that Congress acted, it may be justly considered as declaratory of the dispassionate views of the federal party.

Let us now compare the measures of the present administration with these views and with the sentiments of the nation.

The sale of the national ships, as we have seen, was a federal measure: for which, therefore, the republican administration is not answerable.

In the year 1802, an appropriation was made of 900,000 dollars; in the year 1803, of 1,244,000; and in 1804, of 1,650,000 dollars; making together 3,794,000 dollars, or the annual average sum of 1,265,000 dollars. This sum is so near that estimated as necessary by Mr. Stoddert, that we are justified in considering the ideas of the new administration as perfectly consonant with the *dispassionate* conviction of the old; we say *dispassionate*, as it is manifest that during the fury of the storm that accompanied Mr. Adams through his whole political course, very different sentiments prevailed, and of consequence very different measures were taken. Hence the expenditure of the above ten millions.

The only points remaining worthy of consideration are whether this sum has been adequate to its object; and whether it has been properly applied. That it is adequate results no less from the effects produced than from the opinions just stated. On these opinions it is not necessary to dilate. They are so plain and express that every mind can understand them. What have been the effects produced? They have been a continuance of peace with Europe, and a protection of the Mediterranean trade from piratical depredation. It is not probably essentially owing to any naval strength of the United States that we have preserved peace with the European nations. It is most likely that we owe it more to the smallness of our navy, and to its employment at a distance. There is not a wise man that will not grant our inability to protect our trade by national ships against the powers of Europe, without incurring ten fold the present expence; there is not, therefore, a judicious mind that will not perceive the folly of creating an instrument, inoffensive to our enemies, and only capable of exciting insult and injury, without the means of avenging either. It was under such sentiments that the first armament was established for the exclusive purpose of checking piratical depredation; and for no other purpose can it be continued on its present footing but for this, and the protection of our harbors. These ends have been attained, if not fully, at least to as great an extent as could have been expected. The Mediterranean trade has been fully protected. It has been said that the strength in that sea has not been sufficient. But experience proves that it has, inasmuch as in every instance, except the unfortunate loss of the frigate Philadelphia, the Barbary powers have been kept in subjection; and this loss arose entirely from accident.

All the details of our naval armaments have been executed with great fidelity; except in one case, and the public opinion has been fully propitiated on that occasion by the removal of the officers. We need not appeal, in confirmation of this, to the gallant conduct of a Sterret, or the heroism of a Decatur. It has become manifest to the world, that the valor of our sailors and the conduct of their commanders are not less distinguished than the valor and conduct displayed in the best established marines. We are told, however, that these officers are federalists. Let it be granted. Is there no merit in continuing them in service? Does not their continuance prove the falsehood of the thousand slanders that charge the present administration with a design to depress and degrade the navy? But it is not true that these men are federalists in the sense given to that term by the opponents of the administration. According to them a federalist is a man who condemns the motives and measures of the existing rulers. So far from this being the case with those brave men, it is a fact, and we record it to their honor, that they have on many recent occasions resented with indignation the calumnies cast on the administration; and it is confidently believed that no head of the department has ever been so popular with the officers as the present secretary.

At one time, it is alleged, that the present chief magistrate is friendly, and at another, that he is hostile to a large navy. Nay, it is alleged, that he has changed his original opinion on this subject. But is it at all important what the opinions of the President are? The Constitution has not made him our lawgiver. It does not rest with him to decide the extent to which our navy ought to be carried. He has not officially avowed any opinion on this point. Congress, a *federal* Congress, have fixed its size, and he has confined himself as he ought to do, to the execution of their will. If his private sentiments are inimical to a navy, federalists, who profess themselves its friends, ought to thank him for sacrificing his opinion to theirs, and if they are friendly to it, they ought to rejoice. Or should it be matter of astonishment, that a wider experience had changed his original opinions. Is a wise man, if once in error, destined to an eternal adherence to it?

There are several subordinate points, often the fruitful topics of invective, that might be considered in detail. But this would be without necessity to weary the patience of the reader. We will only further notice, that the naval deposit at Washington, notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, has already saved hundreds of thousands of dollars, and that equipments have been made therefrom with greater promptness than from any other navy yard; and that the plan of a dry dock, so wantonly ridiculed by ignorance, is still worthy of the deliberation of the legislature.

But these are little things; they are points in detail of which few can judge. We do not profess to be learned upon them. But every man of common sense can see that trade has been better protected during the present administration than during the last, that peace has been better preserved, and that less money has been expended in the accomplishment of these great results.

CURTIUS.

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, October 29.

Commodore BARRON arrived at *Gibraltar* with his squadron on the 12th August last. On his arrival he found several dispatches from Mr. Simpson our consul at Morocco, all stating in strong terms the hostile disposition of the emperor of Morocco against our commerce, and the preparations making by him to send out three frigates and two galleys upon a cruise. Mr. Simpson urging the indispensable necessity of leaving two of the frigates upon that station, the commodore accordingly left the Congress, capt Rogers, and the Essex, capt. James Barron. The following extract of a letter from capt. Rogers to the Secretary of the Navy discloses the result.

United States frigate Congress,
Gibraltar Bay, 30 *Aug*, 1804.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I have this instant arrived here with the Congress and Essex direct from Tangier from which place I sailed on the 27th inst. Our passage has been long owing to a strong Levant gale which lasted from the night of the 27th until the morning of the 29th, and drove us through the Straits into the Atlantic.

In my last communication dated Tangier Bay, 17th inst. I informed you of Commodore Barron's having sent the Congress and Essex on this coast in consequence of advices received from Mr. Simpson, our consul at Tangier, of my intention to leave the Essex to watch the conduct of two galleys at that place and of my proceeding immediately to Salle to inform myself, of the movements, and if possible, of the intentions of the Emperor's three ships mentioned in Mr. Simpson's communications to Commodore Barron, copies of which the latter gentleman has forwarded to you: I did so and arrived and anchored before Salle on the 20th (taking Arzilla, Mamora and Larache in my rout) where I found the three ships in question & to all appearance nearly ready for sea. After lying three hours at anchor within about 5 miles of the Town with American colours flying and a signal indicative of friendship and a wish to communicate with the shore, without any apparent disposition of the like on their part, I weighed anchor and stood within the range of a common shot of the ships without any further success of bringing about a communication, although every means which a friendly demeanour could suggest, were used. However I have no reason to suppose that hostile intentions on their part were the cause of my not succeeding, but that they either did not comprehend the meaning of the signal, or were afraid to venture off. On the 21st after repeating again in the same way as on the preceding day, my wishes to exchange civilities without any appearance of success, & fearing that a further attempt on the subject might lead to suspicions unfavorable to a good understanding, I made sail and pursued my course back to Tangier where I again on the 27th joined the Essex. At Larache I found the ship Meshouda (cidevant Tripoline) in a state of *ordinary*, but at Arzilla and Mamora there was not a single vessel of any description. On my return again to Tangier I made the usual signal to communicate with our Consul, and in an hour after had the pleasure of receiving advices from him corroborating my own opinion "that whatever grounds there might have been for suspicion, that they were so far removed as to admit of one of the ships leaving this coast." Two days after I left Tangier for Salle, the two galleys which the Essex was left to watch, sailed, and one of them was boarded by her in sight of Tangier. This circumstance serves to prove that they had no orders to capture American vessels, or they certainly would not have gone to sea while the Essex was in sight. These two galleys, with the three ships at Salle, comprise the greater part, if not the whole marine force of Morocco. Since the galleys sailed I have heard of their being at Cadiz. The ships are inside of Salle Bar, and I have reason to believe there is but little probability of their going to sea this summer, as I am told there never has been an instance of their large cruisers going to sea for the purpose of cruising, after the 10th of September. I shall leave this the instant I get water on board sufficient for 6 or 7 weeks, which I am in hopes will not take longer than to-morrow evening, and proceed direct to Tripoli, where I flatter myself, (if capt. Preble has not made a previous attack) I shall yet arrive in time, to co-operate with Commodore Barron; for I should be greatly mortified if the Congress did not share a part of the credit to be derived from the reduction of Tripoli, by inscribing a lasting and honorable remembrance of her name on its walls.

By arrivals to the Eastward London Papers are received to the 13th of September. The most important articles of news received by them are the following:

The departure of the Russian charge de Affairs from Paris.

A report that the Danish and Swedish ministers had likewise left Paris.

The departure of the Spanish minister from London.

These events are viewed by the European prints as sure indications of approaching hostilities.

The Emperor of Germany has declared himself hereditary Emperor of Austria, and has acknowledged Bonaparte Emperor of France.

Accounts from Malaga represent the dreadful prevalence of the Yellow fever at that place. From 200 to 250 persons die daily.

Capt. Rea, arrived from Gibraltar, says he was informed by M. Gavino that Mr. Pinckney had withdrawn from Madrid and had arrived at Cadiz.

Messrs. Early, Meriwether, Bryan, and Mead are elected representatives in Congress for Georgia.

The Hudson Bee of Tuesday last, says, we hear there has been good slaying a few miles westward. And at New Lebanon, in this county, they have had snow already. As there was some there in May, they have been but four months this year without snow, a remarkable circumstance in this latitude, 42 degrees north.

Professor Pallas, whose death has been published in European prints, is stated in the London papers to be still living; a letter from him, dated May 22, from the Crimea, relates his recovery.

STRENGTH of PARTIES,
In the ensuing Legislature of New Jersey.

	REP.	FED.
Bergen,	0	4
Essex,	5	0
Morris,	4	0
Sussex,	5	0
Hunterdon,	5	0
Somerset,	3	1
Middlesex,	0	4
Monmouth,	4	0
Burlington,	0	5
Gloucester,	4	0
Salem,	4	0
Cumberland,	3	0
Cape May,	0	2
Republicans	37	Fed. 16

The republicans will have a majority in Council of five—in Assembly of sixteen—and in joint meeting of twenty-one. If therefore they are true to their cause, and to one another, they have nothing to fear as to their acts or appointments.

True American.

At Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, there has been a steam engine erected for grinding corn, which possesses the power of eighty horses, and has been finished at the expence of 20,000l.

Louis XVIII.—We this morning give a more circumstantial account of the leading particulars in the attempt to poison Louis XVIII. extracted from the statement transmitted by the French Princes to the British government.

The affair is involved in much mystery. It entirely rests on the testimony of Coulon the keeper of a billiard table, who states, that two strangers called on him, and on their second visit with very little preparation, proposed to him that he should administer the poison. His wife, understanding but little French, was allowed to be present at this interesting conversation, and took her share of the punch, "the glasses of which went round briskly."

The next evening (he says) a third stranger called on him, and conducted him through winding lanes to a house which he cannot recollect. There they fell to drinking champagne, and one of the strangers, intrusted with this important affair, got drunk, and mentioned, inadvertently, the name of Boyer, the French commercial agent. They appointed a rendezvous for next night, when he was to receive the poison, and gave him *one ducat*, to drink with the king's cook.

This is the stage at which Coulon made his disclosure. He was directed to attend the rendezvous; and the next morning produced the parcel containing the poisoned carrots, which he said was given him on the preceding night; but he could not be certain whether the two persons who then met him were the same who first made the proposition. He stated that when he demanded the 400 louis promised, they refused, saying "they had already been several times deceived, and did not consider themselves perfectly sure of him. Besides, he might already have prated of the affair, though they did not believe he had. They, however, gave him *six crowns*, as an advance payment."

Thus stands the plot. The strangers mentioned by Coulon have neither been seen nor heard of, and the whole transaction, as at present disclosed, certainly bears strong marks of imposture.

[*N. Y. Morn. Chron.*]

Natchez, Sep. 21.

Extract of a letter from a gentleman in New-Orleans, to his friend in this city, dated Sep. 8, 1804.

"The yellow fever certainly prevails in this city. Our friend Hore B. Triste has fallen a victim to it, besides many other of our countrymen. Governor Claiborne and his lady were attacked by it, and were for some time despaired of; but with pleasure I add, they are completely recovered. The troops have all marched out of the city, and will remain out until the fever entirely subsides. I think it has already measurably subsided."

PROPOSALS

WILL be received by the Subscribers or by either of them, till the 5th of November next, for ploughing up, leveling and gravelling North G street from 17 to 19th streets, and 18th street west, from New York avenue to Pennsylvania avenue.

CH. W. GOLDSBOROUGH,
T. H. GILLISS,
JOHN LITTLE.
Washington, Oct. 29—3t

BARLEY.

I will give one dollar per bushel for all good well cleaned barley delivered at my Brew-House in Alexandria till the 10th of December 1804.

THOMAS CRUSE.

☞ I have commenced Brewing and will have a steady supply of BEER through the season at the usual prices. T. C.

Oct. 10—1m.

Runaway Negro

WAS Committed to the jail of Frederick county, on the 22nd of September last, negro ELIJAH, who says he is about 22 years old, very black; a bold, impudent fellow, 4 feet 10 inches high, has three suits of clothes, and says that he belongs to one James Fishback, living in Culpepper county, state of Virginia. If his owner does not release him, he will be sold for his jail fees agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, Sheriff
of Frederick County.
Oct. 29—1aw8t

Runaway Negro.

WAS committed to the goal of Frederick county, on the 27th September last negro MERRYMAN, about 17 years old of a yellowish color, is 5 feet 7 inches high; has one brown cloth coat, one pair of striped cotton overalls, one striped waistcoat, and an old wool hat. He says his master's name is John Beverist, and that he lives in Fauquier county state of Virginia. If his OWNER does not release Him he will be sold for his GOAL FEES agreeably to law.

GEORGE CREAGER, Sheriff
of Frederick county.
Oct. 29—1aw8t.

For NORFOLK,

The fast sailing Schooner HARRIOT, burthen 70 tons JOHN SETTON master, will sail in a few days. She has excellent accommodation. For freight or passage apply to the captain on board, at Dunlap and Ervin's wharf in Alexandria.

October 26—3t