their arms and ammunition, to a class of people, it is the interest of the United States to depress and keep down, rather than put arms in their hands, to do such extensive mischief as is every day practised in that island, to say nothing of the feelings such conduct on the part of our citizens or people among us assuming that character, might have on the government of France.

Mr. *Lowndes* wished the gentlemen who made this report would give the committee some information of the ground upon which they had bottomed the bill. When the President's message was received, he had supposed that the French minister had remonstrated against this commerce, and that something was required to be done to restrain the trade to St. Domingo. If that is the design, it will not be answered by the bill in its present form. You here authorise your merchant vessels to arm, on giving bond and sureties; bond to do what? why, conditioned that such vessel shall not commit depredation, outrage, or violence against the vessels or persons of nations in amity with the United States. What is the fair inference from these words, but that you shall be competent to trade to St. Domingo in vessels armed or unarmed. It in an armed vessel, shall they refuse to be searched; suppose they resist the search, what then? Do gentlemen mean to extend this law to Spanish vessels claiming a right to search; for Spain is likely soon to become a Belligerent power; if they do, how can we preserve a neutral position? He was willing to do as much to preserve the peace of the nation as any man. And should think it the best and fairest mode of proceeding, either to declare the trade to St. Domingo to be a lawful trade, and in that case protect commerce by a public force, or suffer the private shipping to defend themselves. Or say, that the trade to that island is unlawful, and interdict it at once, and all together.—Say then they shall not trade to any part of St. Domingo (and this appears to be what the message pointed at) and you will effectually restrain them.

Mr. Eustis said, that depriving merchant vessels of the power of arming would be to deprive them of the capacity of trading to St. Domingo, not of St. Domingo alone but of Cuba, and many other of the West India islands as well as the Spanish Maine; for the number of small piccaroons, employed for the express purpose of capturing our neutral and defenceless ships, would render the seas too dangerous for our navigation. He trusted, however, that Congress would not abandon so advantageous and profitable a trade, as that to the West Indies, but on a full conviction that it would ultimately do more injury than benefit to the United States. It is well known, and the circumstances are too recent not to be in the recollection of every member, that during the last European war many millions of dollars were taken from our citizens by almost every one of the belligerent powers having colonial possessions on this side of the Atlantic. A second time we are exposed to a similar injury, and he did not know how to avoid it without enabling our merchant vessels to arm and make effectual resistance to the small privateers, which swarmed in those seas. He hoped that Congress would express their opinion on this point; for if the idea of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Eppes) is to be acted upon, the business would have to be put into a different train, and would thereby render it unnecessary on the part of the select committee to give the information which had been requested.

He would however state the object of the bill. It must be very well known that in carrying on the trade with St. Domingo a great number of irregularities have taken place; that our vessels have supplied the natives with considerable quantities of articles contraband of war; they have taken away people from that island, whether subjects of France or others, contrary to the established rules and legal regulations of the place. These are circumstances, it is desirable to avoid in future, and that can be best done by making a law for the regulation of this trade, and thereby secure to our country a very valuable commerce. Every gentleman knows there is great difficulty in restraining a trade, where the profits are high, though attended with more risk and danger than ordinary. And he saw but two ways in which the thing could be done on the present occasion; which were, either to interdict the trade altogether, or pass the bill now on table. The interdiction of the trade would be followed by a loss to this country, which existing circumstances did not call upon us to make. He was persuaded that our merchant vessels must arm in order to get to St. Domingo, or many other of the West India islands; it is necessary for the safety of the vessel and the lives of the crew. Will a vessel under this bill being armed and cleared, having given proper security, proceed to sea. What is then required? They are to abstain from committing outrage, unlawful assault, or violence, upon our friends, nor make any other unlawful use of their arms. The clause is expressed generally, and not minutely; the committee did not deem it necessary to go into a detail shewing the nature and defining the species of every act of violence, assault, or outrage; the difficulty of such a detail would have discouraged the attempt, had it even been required; the government will be equally secure against these armed merchantmen, committing offences, under the general definition, as they would have been in any other mode; the vessels are subject to the general restriction contained in the first section of the bill, and this, he thought, would restrain them sufficiently. As for the rest of the bill, the 2d, 3d, and 4th sections, he did not consider them of importance, and he should move to strike them out.

Mr. J. Clay expressed some surprise at Mr. Eppes's amendment, which went to restrain all merchant vessels from being armed, unless such as were bound to the Mediterranean, or beyond the Cape of Good Hope. This was saying nothing more than the laws already enacted declare. He supposes too, that the peace of our country is to depend upon the honesty or villainy of the commander of an armed merchant vessel.—If gentlemen would investigate this subject, they would find that the peace of the country never had been, nor was ever likely to be hazarded by our armed merchantmen, except in the single instance of forcing a trade to St. Domingo; there is no danger to be apprehended from our armed merchant vessels in any other country. The object of the bill is to preserve the peace of the country by laying a penalty, to be incurred for every offence. The trade to the West Indies must either be suspended, or if carried on in unarmed vessels, it must be left to the plunder of a ferocious banditti, disguised under the French flag, nor are these the only ones to be apprehended; the Brigands of small force are laying in wait in every quarter; indeed it is not safe for our merchantmen to sail unarmed from our ports on the Atlantic to New Orleans. The depredations already made on our commerce had amounted to an immense sum: the insurance companies in Baltimore alone have lost 100,000 dollars; yet the commerce is too valuable to the United States to be abandoned altogether; but were America to suspend her intercourse with St. Domingo, the evil of having the present inhabitants for our neighbours would not be lessened; for whilst the rich productions of that island are in such universal demand, they will find their way to market, and their want of military stores or contraband of war will be equally supplied to them, not by Americans, but by British vessels, from the Danish or other neutral islands; the trade will continue, and either neutral or belligerent nations will reap the benefit. To make the thing still more secure, he thought it would be as well that the commander should give bond and sureties for his conduct on board an armed vessel, and if the cargo were made liable to forfeiture as well as the vessel, he should deem it a sufficient security to prevent the misapplication of the power intrusted to the commander. He hoped the committee would reject the amendment proposed by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Eppes) and afterwards concur in the amendment suggested by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Eustis.)

(To be continued.)

WASHINGTON CITY.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31.

The following are the remarks of Mr. *J. Lewis*, in reply to those of Mr. J. Randolph, which should have been inserted in our last paper.

Mr. J. Lewis. When my colleague (Mr. J. Randolph) was laid up, he expressed a hope that no member from Virginia would be found to sanction a measure so hostile to the rights of that state. I lament extremely that I should upon any occasion differ in sentiment with that gentleman, and particularly upon this;—but because I am so unfortunate as not to agree with my colleague upon this question, I hope I shall not on that account be charged with an abandonment of the interests of Virginia.—I am as tenacious of her rights as my hon. colleague, or any other representative from that state; and I must at the same time be permitted to express my regret that any member from Virginia shall be found to oppose a measure so very interesting to a large portion of the citizens of that state.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28.

Mr. Southard presented the petition of Charles Croxall of New Jersey, formerly of Col. Hartley's Regiment of the Pennsylvania line, stating that he had been taken prisoner at the battle of Brandywine in 1777, and for two years confined on Long Island, that during that interval the new arrangement of the Army had taken place, by which he had become supernumerary; that there were only seven officers in the same situation, five of whom are since dead; praying Congress to make him the allowances granted to other officers of the line who served to the close of the war. Referred to the committee of Claims.

Mr. Dana reported on the following petitions from the committee of claims.

William M'Clelland, praying compensation for a company of Marylanders raised in 1760 against the hostile Indians. The report states the claim to be inadmissible, and concludes with a resolution that the petition be rejected; agreed to by the House.

On the petition of Peter Landais formerly Captain of the Alliance frigate for his share of three prizes sent into Bergen, and relinquished by the Danish government to the British, during our revolutionary war. The committee reported that the claim is barred by the statute of limitations, and therefore conclude with a resolution that the prayer thereof ought not to be granted, which was agreed to by the House.

On Catharine Haines, the Widow of an old soldier, praying a grant of land, &c. The report states that whatever might be her claims upon humanity or her title to support from state institutions, she does not appear to have any well-founded claim upon the Treasury of the United States. They recommend that she have leave to withdraw her petition, which was agreed to by the House.

Also a bill for the relief of John Steele, which was read twice and ordered to be engrossed for a third reading on Monday next.

Mr. M'Creery presented a petition from certain sugar refiners, praying to be allowed a drawback upon sugars exported, equal to the duty on brown sugar, referred to the committee appointed to this subject on the petition of a similar nature from New York.

A message from the Senate was received informing that the Senate had had agreed to the amendments proposed by the House on the bill providing for the distribution of the laws of the U. States.

Mr. Lewis called for the third reading of the bill to amend the charter of the town of Alexandria.

A lengthy discussion took place on the passage of the bill which was opposed by Mr. Lewis and its postponement contended for by Messrs. Dennis, Early, R. Griswold and Goddard. The bill was advocated by Messrs. Lyon, Elmer, Leib, Gregg, Eppes, Smilie and G. W. Campbell who likewise opposed the postponement.

On the question to postpone the bill till the first Monday in December next, it was lost, 44 being in favor of the postponement, and 60 against it.

On postponing till the first of February the question was also lost, 42 in favour and 58 against it.

A motion was then made to recommit the bill to a committee of the whole in order to withhold from aliens the right of holding real estate within the bounds of the corporation, and to make some other alterations, which though not very material would give satisfaction to the party in Alexandria who opposed the passage of the bill.

On the question to recommit, there were 36 in the affirmative, and 61 in the negative; so the motion was lost.

Mr. J. Randolph then spoke against the passage of the bill, and was replied to by Messrs. Dawson and G. W. Campbell.

The Yeas and Nays were called by Mr. Lewis, and were declared to be Yeas 54, Nays 51.

Mr. J. Randolph moved that the postmaster general be directed to lay before this House a list of the names of persons with whom contracts have been made for carrying the mail of the U. States from the 31st of December 1801, to the 31st of December, 1804 inclusive, specifying the terms on which such contracts were made, and the sums paid, or to be paid to the contractors respectively. On motion it was agreed to consider the resolution, and on the question will the House agree to same, it was carried nem. con.

Gen. Varnum suggests that his colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. Larned) had made a mistake in his vote on the Alexandria bill, which he wished to be permitted to rectify; whether it would alter the decision of the House he did not know; the gentleman voted for the bill, though he was against it altogether, under an impression that he was voting on the question of recommitment instead of its final passage. If he was permitted to record his vote according to his intention, it would make the result stand 53 to 52, and if the Speaker was to add his vote to the minority the bill would not pass.

This gave rise to a great deal of conversation relative to the rules of the House and its uniform practice, which appeared to have been against an alteration of the vote by yeas and nays, unless the alteration would produce no effect upon the vote by changing the majority into a minority. This idea was combated by the reason of the thing; it was deemed extremely improper to confine members to a *lapsus linguae*, without suffering them to explain. While the argument was going on, Mr. Beckley had been induced to examine his list of yeas and nays with the most careful scrutiny, and had discovered that in the numerical list of votes he had marked the same number twice among the yeas, so that in fact there were 53 yeas, and but 51 nays. The alteration requested being now found not to alter the decision several members hoped the gentleman might be indulged; but this being to be done by the unanimous consent of the House, and Mr. Conrad refusing his consent, the alteration was not made. Four motions were made to adjourn during the debate, and the last succeeded.

RETURNS

of the election of President and Vice-President.

	President. Jefferson.	*V President Clinton.*	*President. Pinckney.*	*V President King*
N. Hampshire,	7	7	—	—
Massachusetts,	19	19	—	—
Rhode-Island,	4	4	—	—
Connecticut,	—	—	9	9
Vermont,	6	6	—	—
New York,	19	19	—	—
New Jersey,	8	8	—	—
Pennsylvania,	20	20	—	—
Delaware,	—	—	3	3
Maryland,	9	9	2	2
Virginia,	24	24	—	—
North Carolina,	14	14	—	—
South-Carolina,	10	10	—	—
Georgia,	6	6	—	—
Tennessee,	5	5	—	—
Kentucky,				
Ohio,	3	3	—	—
	154	154	14	14

FIRE AT ST. THOMAS'S.—*Extract of a letter from that island, dated November 26th.*

"On the 22d inst. about half past 7 o'clock a fire broke out in the house of Waswo and Mulenburgh, of this island, and raged with such unexampled fury that notwithstanding every exertion, it proceeded almost to the house of Capt. Kerr at the lower end of the town, before it could be got under, leaving nothing but bare walls from the Custom House all the way to Mr. Kerr's. I suppose that at least five thousand white inhabitants are without shelter, although every public and private building that escaped, are appropriated to their use. The part of the town from the bridge to the eastward, excepting the Company's Stores, are all saved. This letter is written in haste, expect more particulars in my next."

London papers as late as Oct. 26th are received by arrivals to the Eastward; from which it appears that a change has taken place in the Batavian government, at the head of which Schimmelpennick is to be placed, and that the emperor of Russia had ordered the French Charge des Affaires to leave Petersburg within twenty-four hours.

The Nantes Journal of the 19th of Oct. mentions the arrival of Gen. Armstrong, our minister to France, in that city, whence he was to proceed, within a few days, for Paris.

Captain Wills, of the ship Portland from L'Orient, which place he left on the 24th October—reports the capture of two valuable Spanish ships laden with linen, bound from St. Maloes to Spain, (cargoes estimated at four millions of livres) by a British frigate. Thirty gun brigs, boats, &c. had been captured and destroyed on their passage from L'Orient, to Brest, by two British frigates.

Friday, December 28.

At a meeting of a number of residents and proprietors of the territory of Columbia, convened at the hotel of W. Rhodes, in the city of Washington, the following resolutions were entered into.

Resolved, That it is incumbent upon those residents and proprietors of the territory of Columbia, who are opposed to a recession, by the United States, of the whole, or of any part, of the territory of Columbia, to the respective states of Maryland and Virginia, and are in favor of a subordinate government for the said territory, to associate themselves together for the purpose of more clearly ascertaining their strength, and of pursuing more efficacious measures for the promotion of their objects.

Resolved, That this meeting do now organize itself into an association for the above purposes, and that the name of this association be "The Association for the promotion of a subordinate Government for the Territory of Columbia."

Resolved, That the persons now present at this meeting, together with Abraham Faw, of Alexandria, and William Prout, William Tunnicliff, and Peter Miller, of the city of Washington, who have authorised their names to be inserted as members of this association, and such other persons, actual inhabitants or proprietors in the Territory of Columbia, whether residing in Washington, Alexandria, George-Town, or the country parts of the territory, as shall request the Secretary to enrol their names as members, shall compose the said association.

Resolved, That as soon as a sufficient number of members shall have associated, this association will divide itself into sections, to hold separate meetings, in the several parts composing the territory, as shall be found most convenient.

Resolved, That in the mean time this association will hold stated meetings on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings, at such places as may from time to time be adjourned to, for the purpose of discussing the principles upon which a subordinate government ought to be constituted, and such other special meetings as may be found necessary.

Resolved, That Henry Herford, and William M. Duncanson, be a committee to wait upon the citizens to explain the nature and objects of this association.

Resolved, That the association do now elect a Secretary.

Thomas Herty was then unanimously elected Secretary.

Resolved, That the Secretary do immediately transmit a copy of these proceedings to the Editors of the National Intelligencer, Washington Federalist, Alexandria Expositor, and Alexandria Advertiser, with a request to them to give publicity to the said proceedings, and to the future proceedings of this association.

Resolved, That this association, when they do adjourn, will adjourn to Saturday evening, the twenty-ninth day of the present month, then to meet at the hotel of William Woodward, at six o'clock.

Resolved, That at the next meeting this association will proceed to the election of a President, and of two Vice-Presidents.

And then the association adjourned pursuant to order.

By order,

THOMAS HERTY,

Secretary.

Louisville, December 7.

On Wednesday, the 6th inst. the electors of President and Vice-President met at the statehouse and gave an unanimous vote for THOMAS JEFFERSON as President and GEORGE CLINTON as Vice-President of the United States for the next term. When the vote was announced a salute of 17 cannon was fired by the artillery corps under the command of capt. Bostwick. The electors and general officers of militia dined with the governor.

In the evening, the town was brilliantly illuminated and a ball given. Joy sat on every countenance and pleasure was the ruling sentiment. When we viewed the scene through which we had passed; the doubts, anxieties and fears of the last election and contrasted them with the different circumstances of the present; not a soul but expanded with the sweet emotions it excited. We now behold, not the dangers of stamp, sedition and excise laws, but light taxes, liberty and plenty secured on a basis too firm to be shaken. Every patriot felt proud of his country when he uttered the name of Jefferson; every Georgian felt proud of his state when he reflected there was not a federalist in the legislature.

Five Dollars Reward

To any person giving information where a GREY HORSE is to be found, if within the District (Nick'd and crop'd) formerly the property of William Dyer—now the property of Charles Johnston. Said horse is detained and kept out of the way in order to avoid a writ of replivey being levyed on the horse by Mr. Henry Queen to whom he was lent. Apply to CHARLES JOHNSTON on the Capitol Hill, at Mr. Deblin's, or to WILLIAM DYER, at the Navy Yard

City Washington, Dec. 27th 1804.—2t

NOTICE

Is hereby given that the sale of all those lands and lots heretofore advertised in the Washington Federalist, the National Intelligencer and the Baltimore Federal Gazette on the 20th day of August last for a tax due the county of Washington in the territory of Columbia for the year 1801 (which sale was to have taken place on Monday the 10th day of December next at Rhodes Hotel in the City of Washington) is postponed until the first Monday in February next, when, at the same place at 11 o'clock A. M. the sale will commence and continue from day to day until all are sold or so much thereof as will satisfy the tax and other charges due thereon unless the said tax and charges be paid previous to the day of sale.

By order of the commissioners of the Levy Court,

WASHINGTON BOYD,

Collector of Washington County

December 8th, 1804 eptdf

For Sale or Rent

THE TWO STORY BRICK HOUSE on Gay Street north of the methodist meeting, containing two rooms on each floor and two in the garret. The whole completely finished—has an extensive back garden with an excellent pump of water in front with other conveniencies suitable for a genteel family.—For terms apply to Mr. John Suter, or to CHARLES BOTETER.

December 24, 1804. [illegible]3t

Doctor Benson,

(Lately from Great Britain)

RESPECTFULLY informs the inhabitants of Washington and its vicinity, that he has taken up his residence in F. street, (three doors from the Secretary of State) where he intends practising as Physician, Surgeon and accoucher.

Washington, Dec. 28. 1804.