mittee of the whole on the state of the union might at any time be gratified by going into that committee and moving any resolution he might see fit, as the message generally was referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union. He believed, however, that the floor of the House was not the proper place to make declarations of what is the law of nations. He believed that a volume of such declarations would be of no avail; it was their duty to act and not to declare on such subjects; and whenever the gentleman from Pennsylvania or any other gentleman would bring forward measures calculated to prevent an infraction of our neutral rights, they should receive his support. At present he must be against adopting the resolution.

Mr. Smilie said he did not expect any opposition to the motion he had made. If the committee of Ways and Means should be discharged from the business, it would consequently come before the committee of the whole on the state of the union without any motion, as the message was generally before that committee.

In reply to the remark that this motion would be treating the committee of Ways and Means with disrespect, Mr. Smilie said, he thought the ground on which he had placed the business would have removed every idea of the kind. He did not say the committee of Ways and Means were not as competent to the business as any other select or standing committee; but he had declared from the beginning that in his opinion, in point of principle, the reference ought to have been made to the committee of the whole. This is the ninth week of the session, and gentlemen charge us with having done nothing. Do not gentlemen see, from the deranged state of the committee of Ways and Means, that this course has become absolutely necessary? Shall a business, of the first importance that can occur during the session, be neglected on this account? Not only the eyes of all America, but likewise of all Europe are looking with anxiety on the steps which we shall take in this business. For all the maritime powers of Europe are interested in this great question relative to neutral rights. Are we, then, in consequence of the deranged situation of a select committee, to remain with our hands tied up? For myself I do think, that the interests of our country call upon us to take immediate steps. I repeat it, that on a similar occasion with this, a similar course was pursued. Gentlemen will remember, that in the third Congress, when we before suffered from the misconduct of Great Britain, certain resolutions which became the subject of discussion originated in a committee of the whole House. What, indeed, are we to expect from the committee of Ways and Means? Are they in possession of the general sense of the House on this subject, as a guide in making their report? This is not the case, as we have had no discussion of the subject; and until it shall be brought under a view of a committee of the whole House, it is impossible to tell in what the opinions of members will centre.

Mr. Jackson. I have but a single observation to make in addition to those which have fallen from the gentleman from Pennsylvania. So far as relates to myself, it is not my object to discuss in committee of the whole, the abstract question of the law of nations, but to adopt measures for the effectual resistance and punishment of the infraction of those laws, as far as we can. If, according to the course pointed out by my colleague, any resolution should be submitted on this subject in committee of the whole, it will be objected that the subject is before a standing committee, and it will be said to be disrespectful to act on it until they shall have reported. If my colleague, therefore, be of opinion, that we should adopt any efficient and prompt measures, the better and speedier way will be for him to join in the motion. I hope that motion will prevail. In the name of Heaven, if we are not disposed to do any thing, let us tell the people so.

Mr. Crowninshield. From the beginning I was opposed to referring this subject to the Committee of Ways and Means. I saw no reason for its going to a standing committee. Without meaning to cast any censure on the Committee of Ways and Means, I am in favor of the motion. We have been in session seven or eight weeks—the reference was made as early as the 6th of Dec. and we have yet no report. The question is perhaps as interesting a one as has been presented since the establishment of our national government. What is our situation? Our ships are plundered in every sea, our seamen are impressed, 3,000 of them are in the service of one nation. We are a neutral nation, and it is not proper that any belligerent nation should employ them in this manner. Like the gentleman from Virginia, I am ready to act—I want no report to guide my decision. I am prepared—not for war measures, but for a non-intercourse act with Great Britain. I am willing to suspend all intercourse with Great Britain until she shall give back the ships she has stolen from us, and the seamen she forcibly detains. I shall not be more ready to take this step after a report from the Committee of Ways and Means than I am now. The simple question is, whether we shall abandon trade altogether, or resist the unjust aggressions made upon it. But it was not my object in rising, to go any length into the subject; I only rose to express my opinion in favor of the course pointed out by the motion. The Committee of Ways and Means is deranged, disorganized; two members are absent, and the Chairman unfortunately is sick—We have no expectation of a report; it may not come till the end of the session.

Mr. Gregg. I rise to express a similar opinion with the gentleman just set down. I am in favor of the motion for the reasons which he has assigned, and for another reason; for the sake of consistency. Though the subject be referred to the Committee of Ways and Means, it is likewise referred to the committee of the whole on the state of the union. The memorials from the merchants of New-York and Philadelphia have taken this latter course. This brings the subject before a committee of the whole. We are under the same obligation to take up the business of our constituents as the message; and as the business is of the greatest importance I hope the whole subject will be referred to a committee of the whole.

Mr. Bidwell. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has anticipated me in an idea which I meant to have expressed. As the principal document on this subject is the message of the President, I think it proper that that should be placed with the same committee charged with the memorials of merchants from different towns. Another reason may be mentioned in favor of this course of procedure. At the commencement of the session there was a strong reason for referring the subject to a special committee. It was a principal object at that time to enquire into the extent and degree of the injuries received from belligerent nations; as since that time we have received full information on these points from the executive department, that reason is done away, and there is no necessity for any investigation by a select committee.

The motion to discharge the Committee of Ways and Means was then agreed to—Ayes 68.

On motion of Mr. Smilie, the select committee to whom was referred so much of the message of the President of the U. S. of the 17th inst. as relates to the impressment of our seamen, was discharged from its further consideration, and the subject referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union without a division.

On motion of Mr. Thomas, the Committee of Ways and Means were discharged from the consideration of so much of the message of the President as relates to depredations committed on our colonial trade, and the subject referred to a committee of the whole House on the state of the union without a division.

NON IMPORTATION WITH G. BRITAIN.

Mr. Gregg said, that he considered the insults offered to our government, and the injuries done to our citizens by some of the belligerent nations, to be of such a nature, as to demand the interposition of government to obtain redress. It appeared from the memorials and remonstrances of the merchants of New-York, Philadelphia, and other of our seaport towns, now on our table, as well as from executive communications, that vessels the bona fide property of citizens of the U. S. have been seized by their cruisers, and they and their cargoes condemned, contrary to our rights as a neutral nation, and to what has long been considered as the law of nations on this subject. Great numbers of our fellow citizens have been impressed, and notwithstanding our repeated remonstrances, they are cruelly retained in bondage, and compelled to act in a service, perhaps very abhorrent from their feelings, far from their country and their friends. To these insults and injuries, said Mr. G. we can no longer submit, unless we are willing to surrender that independence which has been, and I trust always will be our pride and our boast. So great are these injuries and aggressions, and so unremittingly are they persevered in, that I do not know but they might be considered as a sufficient cause, on which to ground a declaration of war. That however is not my object. I deprecate war, and will not agree to resort to it, until other means which we have in our power are tried in vain. We do, I think, possess means, which if properly used, cannot fail of accomplishing the object. To these I hope we will now resort, and for the purpose of bringing them into view, I will submit a resolution to the consideration of the House, reserving any farther observations on the subject, until the resolution shall be taken up in committee of the whole on the state of the union, to which I intend moving its reference.

Mr. Gregg then offered the following resolution:

Whereas Great Britain impresses citizens of the United States, and compels them to serve on board her ships of war, and also seizes and condemns vessels belonging to citizens of the United States, and their cargoes being the *bona fide* property of American citizens, not contraband of war, and not proceeding to places besieged or blockaded, under the pretext of their being engaged in time of war in a trade with her enemies which was not allowed in time of peace:

And whereas the government of the United States has repeatedly remonstrated to the British government against these injuries, and demanded satisfaction therefor, but without effect,

Therefore, Resolved, That until equitable and satisfactory arrangements on these points shall be made between the two governments, it is expedient that from and after the——day of——no goods, wares, or merchandize, of the growth, product, or manufacture of G. Britain, or of any of the colonies or dependencies thereof ought to be imported into the United States. Provided, however, that whenever arrangements deemed satisfactory by the President of the U. States shall take place, it shall be lawful for him by proclamation to fix a day on which the prohibition aforesaid shall cease.

The House having agreed to consider this resolution.

Mr. Thomas said he had seconded the motion of the gentleman from Pennsylvania and should give it his decided support—It would however have suited him better, had it gone still further, and interdicted all commercial intercourse with that nation, until she should cease to commit depredations on our commerce, impress our citizens on the high seas into her service, and abandon the new principles which she had lately interpolated in the maritime code, and which he considered as unjust as they were unauthorised by the acknowledged law of nations.

But as unanimity in the legislature of the nation was desirable at all times, and particularly so on great national questions, he was disposed, in order to produce that result on the present occasion, to yield a part of his own opinion to meet the views of other gentlemen.

The present was an important question, and he hoped the honorable mover would consent that it should lie a day or two for consideration, and moved that it be printed.

Mr. Gregg said his wish was to refer the resolution to a committee of the whole on the state of the union, and made a motion to that effect which was agreed to without a division, and the resolution ordered to be printed.

On motion of Mr. Thompson the House again resolved itself into a committee of the whole—Mr. J. C. Smith in the chair—on the report of a select committee in favor of authorising the erection of a bridge over the Potomac.

Messrs. Thompson, Clark and Elmer advocated; and Messrs. Early, Sloan and Findley opposed the report; when the committee rose, without coming to a decision, and obtained leave to sit again.

A message was received from the President of the United States, enclosing a memorial from the merchants of Baltimore, on the depredations committed on the commerce of the U. S. which was referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter from the treasurer of the United States, rendering a general statement of the civil accounts, as well as those of the navy and war departments from October 1, 1804, to October 1, 1805.

Thursday, Jan. 30.

Mr. J. Randolph said it would be recollected that, very early in the session, so much of the message of the President of the U. S. as relates to the invasion of neutral rights by belligerent powers, had been referred to the committee of Ways and Means. It would also be recollected that another message on the same subject, or on one connected with it, had been referred to the same committee of Ways and Means. I understand, said Mr. R. (for my indisposition has not permitted me for some days past to attend to the duties of my seat) that a motion has prevailed to discharge the committee of Ways and Means from the consideration of that subject. Inasmuch as this discharge may have been effected under an impression that the committee have been delinquent in executing the duty devolved upon them, I feel it my duty, before I surrender the papers connected with this subject, to give some account of the proceedings of the committee. On the 11th of Dec. the committee instructed their chairman to write a letter to the secretary of state, which I will read. Mr. R. here read the letter as follows:

Committee room, Dec. 11, 1806.

Sir,

The Committee of Ways and Means have instructed me to request you will cause to be laid before them such information, on the subject of the inclosed resolution, as the department of state can furnish.

The peculiar objects of our research are—

1. What new principles, or constructions, of the law of nations have been adopted by the belligerent powers of Europe, to the prejudice of neutral rights?

2. The governments asserting those principles and constructions?

3. The extent to which the commerce of the U. S. has been thereby injured?

I am, with very great respect,
Sir,
Yours,
JOHN RANDOLPH.

The Secretary of State.

On Saturday night the 25th instant, the Committee of Ways & Means received an answer to this letter, which I will deliver to the clerk, in order that it may go to the new committee, to which this business has been referred. It is unnecessary for me to add any thing more. The House must be sensible that while the Committee of Way and Means were in the dark they could not proceed in the discharge of the duties assigned them, and that after receiving information from the secretary of state so late in the day, it was impossible for them to have made a report by this day; and if I am not mistaken, the motion to discharge the Committee of Ways and Means was made before the answer of the secretary of state was received.

The Clerk accordingly read the letter of the Secretary of State, as follows:

ANSWER.

The Secretary of State presents his respects to Mr. Randolph, and has the honor to transmit him a copy of a report this day made to the President of the United States, respecting interpolations by foreign powers, of new and injurious principles, in the law of nations. This report, with the communications made by the President to Congress, particularly that of the 17th inst. will, it is hoped, afford the information requested, for the Committee of Ways and Means, by Mr. Randolph's letter of the 11th inst.

Department of State,
Jan. 25, 1806.

Which on motion of *Mr. J. Randolph*, the papers laid by him on the table, were referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

The Speaker laid before the House the following letter from the secretary of the navy addressed to the House.

SIR,

"In obedience to the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 27th inst. directing the Secretary of the Navy "to lay before the House a report on the condition of the frigates, and other public armed vessels, belonging to the U. S. distinguishing the frigates fit for actual service; distinguishing such as require repair, and the sum necessary for repairing each; and distinguishing also such as it may be the interest of the U. S. to dispose of rather than repair," I have the honor to state,

That the frigate Constitution is now in a state of thorough repair, and in all respects prepared for service.

That the frigate Chesapeake has lately been repaired and is fit for service.

That the frigates Adams, Essex, and John Adams are also fit for service.

That the brigs Siren, Hornet, Argus, and Vixen, the schooners Nautilus and Enterprise, the bombs Spitfire and Vengeance, and all the gun boats are fit for service.

That the frigates President, United States, Congress, Constellation, New-York and Boston, require to be repaired; but it is utterly impossible to form an accurate estimate of the "sum necessary for repairing each."

I know of no vessel belonging to the navy, which I consider it would be "the interest of the U. S. to dispose of, rather than repair."

On the motion of *Mr. J. Randolph*, the 1st and 3d sections of the bill to repeal so much of an act as authorises the evidences of the public debt to be received in payment for public lands, and for other purposes, was referred to a committee of the whole House.

The discussion which ensued on the details of this bill occupied nearly the whole of the residue of the day, of which we shall hereafter take a more particular notice.

The committee having reported the bill, with sundry amendments, it was ordered to a third reading tomorrow.

Mr. Stanford reported a bill for altering the time for holding the circuit court for the district of North Carolina, which was referred to a committee of the whole to morrow.

Mr. Crowninshield presented an energetic and comprehensive memorial from the merchants of Salem, Mass. representing the embarrassed situation of trade; their deep anxiety at the impressment of American seamen; the severe injuries received from the recent principles assumed by Great Britain, and pledging their lives and property in support of such measures as may be taken by the government to defend and protect their rights.

Referred to a committee of the whole on the state of the union.

James Forrest, Esq. is appointed by the legislature of Maryland, Register of Wills for St. Mary's county in the place of Edmund Key, Esq. appointed a judge for the district composed of St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's counties.

Great Failure.—Captain Meek, lately arrived at Marblehead from Bilboa, reports that the great French banker, Recamier, had failed for an hundred millions of livres.

Capt. Poulson, who arrived here this day from Teneriffe via St. Thomas, furnishes us some further particulars respecting the Rochefort squadron, which he derived partly from the American captains, whose ships had been destroyed, and partly from his own observation.

This fleet put to sea in expectation of meeting the combined fleet from Cadiz; for this purpose they cruized some time in a certain latitude, during which they destroyed the neutral vessels. After some time they endeavored to gain the port of Vigo, but the wind heading, they made for Teneriffe, where they arrived, consisting of one 3 decker, 4 74's, 3 frigates, 2 brigs, the Calcutta, and 6 merchant ships prizes.

They sailed on the 17th November, with the Calcutta, which they had commissioned. From the small quantity of provisions and water which they procured at Teneriffe, and from the circumstance of taking the captain and crews of the neutral vessels with them, capt. P. concludes they will attempt to enter some port of Spain.

A ship had arrived at St. Thomas, one of the Cork convoy, the captain of which states, that the convoy was met, as stated in the account via Nassau, & all except 2 or 3 were destroyed by this squadron after leaving Teneriffe.

Norfolk Ledger.

The undersigned begs that those gentlemen who took charge of subscription papers with a view to encourage the publication of his new work, entitled "Plain Discourses on the Chemical Laws of Matter," by procuring subscribers, would be pleased to return them, or inform him of the number of subscribers they have obtained, by private conveyance or by mail, immediately. He hopes that this request will be strictly attended to, as he cannot proceed with the publication of his performance until the number of subscribers is accurately ascertained.

THOMAS EWELL.
George Town, Columbia,
31st January, 1806.

☞ The editors of the southern papers are respectfully requested to give the above an insertion in their papers.

The whole stock of the Washington Tontine, not being subscribed by others before the 31st December last, the remainder was on that day subscribed by the lot owners and placed on lives supposed to be well selected. This stock is now in my hands for sale at 52 dollars per share the purchaser taking choice of the lives selected. The price will be raised from time to time, as the increasing value of the stock will justify.

Apply at the Tontine Office.
JOSEPH FORREST.
Jan. 31—3t

FOR SALE.

All that tract of land which I purchased from Mrs. Mary Jenkins and on which I now reside lying in St. Mary's county on the Chesapeake bay three miles from St Inigoes creek containing 700 acres more or less. The advantages of this land are numerous, 400 acres are in wood abounding in oak, locust and poplar. The bay shore affords an inexhaustible source of excellent manure in the sea weed or sea ose as it is commonly called which is at all seasons thrown up in great quantities and is of easy access, lying immediately along side of the fields. No place can be better adapted than this for stock of all kinds. The woods yield abundance of acorns, and it abounds in grounds well calculated for meadows that produce great quantities of grass. The improvements of this place are likewise considerable, here are on it a good brick dwelling house, every necessary out house, a small water mill, and two tenements now under rent, besides all necessary fencing in good repair. Moreover there are many convenient springs of good water that do not fail in the driest seasons—its situation renders it almost superfluous to mention that it lies convenient to the Baltimore, Norfolk and Alexandria markets. This valuable tract of land I will sell for one 4th cash and the remainder in one two and three years.

WILFRED MANNING.
Great Mill, Jan. 31—3t&wtf

WASHINGTON ACADEMY.

On Monday, the 20th inst. the Schools under the direction of Mr. WHITE, appointed a PRINCIPAL Teacher, will be opened at the House, on the Pennsylvania Avenue, west of the President's House and near Major Swan's.

For the admission of Pay Pupils application is to be made to Mr. White; and for the admission of those, whose parents or guardians are unable to pay for them, and for whose education provision has been made by the Council, application is to be made to

SAMUEL H. SMITH,
NICHOLAS KING,
THOMAS MONROE, } *Superintending Committee*,

Arrangements were made by the Trustees for opening the schools in the Eastern, on the same day with those in the Western section of the city: but owing to unexpected occurrences they are obliged to defer opening the former schools for a period, which it is hoped will not exceed a few days.

Washington, Jan. 17.

By order of the Orphan's Court of Prince George's county, will be sold at public sale, on Tuesday 11th of next month (at Mr Elisha Jones's near Broad Creek) part of the personal property of Joseph Gill, deceased; Consisting of one negro man, some valuable milch cows and one horse. The above property will be sold on a credit of six months, with interest from the day of sale, the purchaser or purchasers giving bond with approved security——Sale to commence at 12 o'clock, if fair, if not the next fair day.

MARY GILL, Administratrix.
January 15—3w

BOLTING CLOTHS.

Received a general assortment of warranted Bolting Cloths of Oliver Evans of Philadelphia and have constantly for sale at my store in Bridge street, George Town Columbia.

WM. MORGAN.
1st month 1, 1806—2aw5w

This is to give Notice,

That the subscriber of Prince George's county in Maryland, hath obtained from the Orphan's court of Washington county, in the district of Columbia, letters of administration on the personal estate of George Beall, late of Washington county, deceased, all persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof, to the subscriber, at or before the seventeenth day of July next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand, this 17th day of January, 1806.

WALTER T. GREENFIELD, Adm'r.
January 17—w4t

Advertisement.

THIS to is give notice that the subscriber hath obtained from the Orphans court of Washington county in the district of Columbia, Letters Testamentary on the personal estate of Stanley Byus, late of Washington county aforesaid deceased; all persons having claims against the said deceased, are hereby warned to exhibit the same, with the vouchers thereof to the subscriber, at or before the 11th day of June 1806, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate. All persons indebted to the said estate are required to make immediate payment to

T. H. GILLISS, Executor.
Washington City, Dec. 11—w3m

NOTICE.

Enoch Spalding is appointed *Collector* of fines for the 1st Legion of the District of Columbia.

By order,
Wm. D. BEALL, Clk.
January 13—3w