Mr. Smilie spoke next in favor of the resolution; when the debate was closed for the day by Mr. *J. Randolph*, about four o'clock.

SLAVERY authorised by law in the INDIANA TERRITORY.

It is with the deepest regret that we discharge the painful duty of inviting the public attention to the recent conduct of the legislature of Indiana. It cannot be surprising that a subject, so odious and humiliating as slavery, should awaken the liveliest sensibilities of a free people, when those whose duty it is to lessen, are engaged in invigorating the evil. We mean not to enter on an enquiry into the origin of this national calamity. At the era of our independence, it was our misfortune to find it entailed upon us. Since that period, it is our pride, that, with a solitary exception, we have zealously strove to lessen it. Among the proudest trophies that embellish our character, is that act of the old Congress, which, in providing a government for the territory north west of the Ohio, declares that "*there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude* in the said territory, otherwise than in punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." This is one of the articles, which it is declared by the ordinance passed on the 13th July, 1787, "shall be considered as articles of compact between the original states, and the people and states in the said territory, *and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent.*"

The language of Congress in establishing these permanent and unalterable rules is memorable, and well worthy of notice on this occasion, as it shews that the dignified and enlightened body, under whose skilful and patriotic auspices the liberties of America were achieved, still retained an undiminished respect for the great and eternal principles of freedom. They preface the enumeration of the permanent rules with these emphatic words: "For extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the basis whereon these republics, their laws and constitutions are erected; to fix and establish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory," &c.

On the 7th of May, 1800, Congress passed an act dividing the north western territory into two territories, constituting a separate one by the name of the Indiana territory, and declaring that there should be established thereon "a government in all respects similar to the government provided by the ordinance of Congress, passed on the 13th day of July, 1787, for the government of the territory of the United States, N. W. of the river Ohio."

In violation of the foregoing fundamental provision of the ordinance, the legislature of the Indiana territory passed in the last summer the following act, which is extracted for a Cincinnati paper.

A LAW OF THE INDIANA TERRITORY.

AN ACT

Concerning the introduction of Negroes and mulattoes into this territory.

B*E it enacted by the legislative council and House of representatives, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That it shall and may be lawful for any person being the owner or possessor of any negroes or mulattoes of and above fifteen years, and owing service and labor as slaves, in either of the states or territories of the U. S. or for any citizen of the said states or territories, purchasing the same, to bring the said negroes or mulattoes into this territory.

Sec. 2. That the owner or possessor of any negroes or mulattoes as aforesaid, and bringing the same into this territory, shall within thirty days after such removal, go with the same before the clerk of the court of common pleas of the proper county, and in the presence of the said clerk, the said owner or possessor shall determine and agree to and with his or her negro or mulatto, upon the term of years which the said negro or mulatto will and shall serve his or her said owner or possessor, and the said clerk is hereby authorised and required to make a record thereof, in a book which he shall keep for the purpose.

Sec. 3. That if any negro or mulatto, removed to this territory, as aforesaid, shall refuse to serve his or her owner as aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful for such person within sixty days thereafter, to remove the said negro or mulatto to any place, which by the laws of the states or territory, from whence such owner or possessor, may or shall be authorised to remove the same.

Sec. 4th. That if any person or persons, shall neglect or refuse to perform the duty required in the second, or to take advantage of the benefit of the preceding section hereof, within the time therein respectively prescribed, such person or persons shall forfeit all claim and right whatever, to the service and labor of such negroes or mulattoes.

Sec. 5. That any person removing into this territory and being the owner or possessor of any negro or mulatto as aforesaid, under the age of fifteen years, or if any person shall hereafter acquire a property in any negro or mulatto as aforesaid, and who shall bring them into this territory, it shall be lawful for such person, owner or possessor, to hold the said negro or mulatto, to service and labor; the males until they arrive at the age of thirty-five, and the females until they arrive at the age of thirty-two years.

Sec. 6. Any person removing any negro or mulatto into this territory, under the authority of the preceding sections, it shall be incumbent on such persons within thirty days thereafter, to register the name and age of such negro or mulatto, with the clerk of the court of Common Pleas, of the proper county.

Sec. 7. That if any person shall remove any negro or mulatto, from one county to another within this territory, who may or shall be brought into the same, under the authority of either the first or fifth sections hereof, it shall be incumbent on such person to register the same, and also the name and age of the said negro or mulatto, with the said clerk of the county from whence, and to which such negro or mulatto, may be removed within thirty days after such removal.

Sec. 8. That if any person shall neglect or refuse to perform the duty required by the two preceding sections hereof, such person for such offence shall be fined in the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered by indictment or information, and for the use of the proper county.

Sec. 9. That if any clerk shall neglect or refuse to perform the duty herein required, he shall for every such neglect or refusal be fined in the sum of fifty dollars, to be recovered by information or indictment, and for the use of the county.

Sec. 10. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court of common pleas aforesaid, when any person shall apply to him to register any mulatto or negro agreeable to the preceding section, to demand and receive the said applicant's bond, with sufficient security, in the penalty of five hundred dollars payable to the governor or his successors in office, conditioned that the said mulatto or negro, or mulattoes or negroes, as the case may be, shall not, after the expiration of his or her time of service, become a county charge, which bond shall be lodged with the county treasurers respectively, for the use of the said counties: *Provided always,* That no such bond shall be required, or requireable, in case the time of service of such negro or mulatto, shall expire before he or she arrives to the age of forty years, if such negro or mulatto, be at that time capable of maintaining him or herself, by his or her own labor.

Sec. 11. Any person who shall forcibly take or carry out of this territory, or who shall be aiding and assisting therein, any person or persons, owing, or having owed service or labor, without the consent of such person or persons previously obtained before any judge of the court of common pleas of the county where such person owing, or having owed such service or labor resides, which consent shall be certified by said judge of the common pleas, to the clerk of the court of common pleas of the county where he resides, at or before the next court, any person so offending, upon conviction thereof, shall forfeit and pay one thousand dollars, one third to the use of the county, and two thirds to the use of the person so taken or carried away, to be recovered by action of debt, or on the case, provided that there shall be nothing in this section so construed as to prevent any master or mistress from removing any person owing service or labor from this territory, as described in the third section of this act.

Sec. 12. That the said clerk for every registry made in manner aforesaid, shall receive seventy-five cents, from the applicant therefor.

Sec. 13. *And be it further enacted,* That the children born in this territory, of a parent of color, owing service or labor, by indenture according to law, shall serve the master or mistress of such parent, the males until the age of thirty, and the females until the age of twenty-eight years.

Sec. 14. *And be it further enacted,* That the provisions contained in a law of this territory, respecting apprentices, and passed at this session of the legislature, shall be in force as to such children in case of the misbehavior of the master or mistress for cruelty or ill usage.

This act shall be in force from the passage thereof.

JESSE B. THOMAS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

BENJAMIN CHAMBERS,
President of the Council.

Approved,
WILLIAM H. HARRISON.

On a subject so important as we deem this, not only to the rising interests & future prospects of the Indiana territory, but likewise to the great interests and involved honor of the whole union, we have thought it best to be thus minute, that a distinct view might be presented of the foundation on which the territorial government was erected, and of the legislative proceedings which have given rise to these animadversions. To elucidate in some measure their effects we shall submit some further remarks.

1. That this is a measure, in which the whole union is deeply interested, is unquestionable. All the territories established by the U. S. are founded on nearly the same principles with those of Indiana. If, therefore, the act of this last territory shall be sustained, can there be a doubt of its dileterious principles being soon transfused into the institutions of all the other territories. Men, unfortunately more influenced by their immediate than ultimate interests, the same door will too probably be opened to the qualified existence of slavery in all the territories. Slaves will become in demand in proportion to the increasing population of the vast regions embraced within the territorial limits of the United States, and their importation into the U. S. will be correspondently increased. In this way the greatest evil existing among us will be invigorated, in defiance of the most efficient restraints opposed to it by our national councils.

2. It will have a most pernicious effect upon the manners, the habits, and the morals of the inhabitants of the territories. All experience evinces that, wherever slavery exists in any considerable degree, those who keep slaves, have themselves a great indisposition to labor. The effect, therefore, will be, to make the whites indolent, and, as their ultimate prosperity must depend upon themselves, to destroy those habits of industry on which alone that prosperity can rest. Besides, is no respect to be paid to those moral considerations which are involved in the tolerance of slavery.

3. How is the evil likely to flow from the Indiana law to be avoided? The ordinance of 1787 having given authority to the general assembly of Indiana, "to make laws, in all cases for the good government of the district, *not repugnant* to the principles and articles" established by the ordinance,—it is clear that the power exercised in the allowance of slavery, is usurped and the act authorising it illegal. Will the judges of the territory, under these circumstances, give it validity in practice? Holding their appointments during good behavior, they cannot be removed except on impeachment, whatever course they may pursue. This is not so, however with the governor or the members of the legislative council, who hold their places at the will of the President. But should they be removed for sanctioning an unconstitutional law, as its repeal could only take place with the consent of the House of Representatives, who are chosen by the people of the territory, it would not seem that even this step would reach the evil. We had thought that a power existed in Congress to annul all territorial laws; but on examining the ordinance, this power appears only to have related to the passage of laws by the governor and judges, previous to the organization of a general assembly.

But should there be no other remedy, one will be found, it is to be hoped, in the arrangements which shall be made on admitting the people of Indiana as a state into the union. It will then legitimately belong to Congress to reject every application for such admission, until they shall have retraced the steps they have taken in violation of the fundamental articles of the compact. In the mean time, too, it will be a subject of consideration, how far it may be expedient to extend benefits, in the power of the United States to bestow, to a territory guilty of such an infraction. We trust that these united considerations will induce our brethren of Indiana seriously to reflect on the step they have taken, dispassionately to enquire into its justice, wisdom and legality; and, if it shall appear to them, that their ultimate interests depend on excluding slavery from among them, that they will magnanimously and wisely repeal the obnoxious law that authorises it.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5.

The Speaker laid before the House a letter received from the Secretary of the Navy, in obedience to a resolution of the House, requiring a statement of the nature and extent of the services rendered by the Danish Consul to the captive crew of the frigate Philadelphia.

The letter incloses a communication from Captain Bainbridge, highly evincive of the generosity and benevolence of Mr. Nissen.

These communications were referred to a select committee of three members.

Mr. John C. Smith, from the Committee of Claims, made a report on the petition of Moses White and Charlotte Hazen, unfavorable to the prayer thereof, in which the House immediately concurred without a division, and gave leave to the petitioners to withdraw their petition.

Mr. Crowninshield, from the Committee of Commerce and Manufactures, made an unfavorable report on the petition of the merchants of Plymouth, &c. which was referred to a committee of the whole House, and made the order for Friday.

Mr. Nicholson, presented a petition from the members of the board of commissioners of the county of Washington, in the district of Columbia, representing that great inconveniences had arisen from that part of the act incorporating the city of Washington which exempts city property from taxation for county purposes, and representing sundry other circumstances which, in their opinion, require legislative interposition.

Referred to a select committee of five members.

Mr. Conrad, from the Committee of public accounts, made a report on the petition of Josias W. King, praying the allowance of interest due on monies alledged to have been withheld from him by the clerk of the House. The committee report that, on enquiry it appears that the balance not paid to J. W. King at the time due, was in consequence of a deficiency in the appropriation, & concludes with the opinion that the memorialist has no claim on the clerk of the House, as prayed for by him, and that the prayer of the memorialist ought not to be granted.

Referred to a committee of the whole on Monday next.

Mr Gregg, from the committee to whom was referred a memorial from the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company, praying for the pecuniary assistance of Congress in the accomplishment of the great work they have undertaken, made a detailed report concluding with the expression of their opinion that it is not expedient at this time to grant any assistance to the company.

Referred to a committee of the whole House on Monday.

Mr. Dawson presented a petition from a number of citizens of Washington county, Columbia, praying that the President may be authorised to permit an enclosure of the unoccupied public ground in the city of Washington on the condition of its cultivation and improvement.

Referred to the committee appointed on the petition of the Board of Commissioners.

Mr. Thompson moved that the House should enter upon the consideration of the amendments made in committee of the whole to the bill authorising the erection of a bridge across the Potomac.

Mr. Gregg moved its postponement till Saturday next.

Mr. Smilie supported, and *Mr. Thompson* opposed this motion, which prevailed—Ayes 54—Noes 45.

The House then, on the motion of Mr. Gregg, resolved itself into a committee of the whole on the state of the union—Ayes 72.

Mr. John C. Smith in the Chair.

Mr. Gregg moved that the committee should take into consideration a resolution, offered by him, on the 29th of January,

FOR A NON-IMPORTATION OF BRITISH GOODS.

The committee having agreed to take up the resolution, and it having been read from the chair—

Mr. J. Clay enquired whether it would not be in order to call up a resolution offered by him on the same subject.

The Chairman said it was not in order, after the committee had determined to consider the resolution just read.

Mr. Gregg then rose in support of his resolution, and spoke about one hour.

He was followed by *Mr. J. Clay* in opposition to it, in a speech of about half an hour.

Mr. Crowninshield replied, in support of the resolution, in a speech of about the same length.—

When *Mr. J. Randolph* closed the debate, of the day, in a speech of about three hours in length against the resolution—when the committee rose and the House adjourned about 5 o'clock.

Baltimore, March 6.

NAVAL ENGAGEMENT.

DESTRUCTION OF THE FRENCH FLEET.

By the brig America, arrived yesterday from the city of St. Domingo, the following important intelligence has been received:

On the 21st of January a French fleet under command of admiral Siegle, from Brest, arrived at the city of St. Domingo, and landed 600 troops—they consisted of the

L'Imperial,	134 Guns.
Jupiter,	74
Diomed,	74
Comet,	36
Corvette Diligence,	22

And on the 29th arrived (in addition) the

Le Brave,	84
L'Alexandre,	74
Felicite,	44

They remained at anchor till the 6th of Feb. when an English fleet of 11 sail hove in sight, 9 of which were of the line, reported to be under the command of adm. Cochrane*—The British fleet immediately attacked the French, who, finding themselves so situated as rendered all attempts to escape fruitless, being completely hemmed in, made a desperate and valiant resistance—but owing to the superior force of the British, the engagement ended with the capture of three, and the total destruction of two of the largest of the French ships—amongst the latter of which was the admiral's ship, which was driven ashore and lost.

On the 8th February another British fleet of 13 sail appeared off St. Domingo, and remained there two days.

* This must be a mistake, as Cochrane has no fleet under his command, according to the latest accounts. We presume it was admiral Duckworth, who has been reported to have passed St. Thomas with 11 sail, it was supposed, in search of the French, who were then at St. Domingo.

We learn, from a respectable gentleman, that the upper decks of L'Imperial blew up when she sunk, about 7 miles from the city; and that 700 souls perished on board. She is just off the stocks and was thought to be the finest ship in the French navy.

The report currently circulated last evening, that the British fleet had burnt the city of St. Domingo, is without foundation.

New-York, March 4.

A gentleman who came passenger in the mail pilot stage from Philadelphia yesterday morning, informs that a vessel had arrived there from Havanna, having escaped in the night to avoid an embargo which was about to be laid on in consequence of a number of Spanish vessels being on the point of departure upon a secret expedition.

Capt. Willeer, from Havanna, informs us, that an embargo was to be laid on there the day after he sailed, in consequence of a Spanish 74 gun ship being ready for sea.

By AUTHORITY.

AN ACT

Declaring the consent of Congress to an act of the state of Pennsylvania, intituled "An act to empower the board of wardens for the port of Philadelphia, to collect a certain duty on tonnage, for the purposes therein mentioned."

B*E it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* That the consent of Congress be, and it is hereby granted and declared to the operation of an act of the legislature of Pennsylvania, passed on the first day of April, in the year one thousand eight hundred and five, intituled "An act to empower the board of wardens for the port of Philadelphia, to collect a certain duty on tonnage, for the purposes therein mentioned," so far as to enable the state of Pennsylvania to collect a duty of four cents per ton on all vessels which shall clear out from the port of Philadelphia for any foreign port or place whatever, to be expended in building piers in, and otherwise improving the navigation of the river Delaware, agreeably to the intentions of the said act.

NATHL. MACON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

GEO: CLINTON,
Vice-President of the United States & President of the Senate.

Feb. 28, 1806.

Approved
TH: JEFFERSON.

PUBLIC VENDUE.

WILL be sold by the subscriber at his Vendue Store near the Navy Yard on Saturday the 8th inst. at 12 o'clock, three FEATHER BEDS.

N. QUEEN, Auctioneer.
March 7—1t

50 DOLLARS REWARD.

RANAWAY from the subscriber on the 1st of June 1804, when living in Baltimore, a negro wench called RACHEL, about 20 years of age, no perceptible mark; she is stout made, has a bashful look when spoken to, speaks quick, apparently far advanced in pregnancy, her clothing cannot be described, as she took with her several articles belonging to her mistress. It is believed that she is in some place convenient to George town, as ALL her connections live there, and was seen there after she had ran away, and I suppose WILL pass herself for a free woman. I will give the above reward if she is lodged in any jail in the state, and all reasonable charges if brought home.

FRANCIS CLARK.
March 7—1w3t.

BANK OF COLUMBIA.

NOTICE is hereby given, that in conformity to the charter of this institution, an election for TWELVE directors will be held at the house of Joseph Semmes, in George town, on the 20th inst.

WILLIAM WHANN, Cashier,
March 7—

OLD COPPER AND BRASS

TWELVE & A HALF CENTS FOR each pound of the above metals will be given by the Subscriber on Pennsylvania avenue near the Centre Market.

MATTHEW HART.
March 6—w3t

This is to give notice that the subscriber of the county of Washington and district of Columbia hath obtained from the Orphan's Court of Prince George's county, state of Maryland, and from the Orphan's Court of the county of Washington aforesaid, letters of administration on the personal estate of WALTER MACKALL, late of Calvert 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 6th day of September next, they may otherwise by law be excluded from all benefit of the said estate.

Given under my hand this 24th day of February 1806.

JAMES S. MORSELL, adm'r.
February 28—2awim

IRON WORKS

ON POTOMAC.

The Subscriber has for Sale or Rent, a good seat for a Furnace upon the North Branch of Potomac in Hampshire county, with plenty of ore already investigated at considerable expence and found to be good, a constant and sufficient stream with upwards of 30 feet fall, and the wood of more than 9000 acres of well timbered land; enough of which is arrable to form a complete establishment. Connected with this may also be rented the forge built by Mr. John Potts at the Great Falls of Potomac, now the property of the subscriber. It is conceived that these two seats are particularly worthy of the notice of Iron Masters of capital; as they are fully adequate to the supply of iron, in its various forms, to an extensive country, having great demand for that article, both above and below the Blue Ridge. The Hampshire property is free from every incumbrance, and the payment of a very few thousand dollars due to the proprietor of the fee simple at the Great Falls (my lease of which is for upwards of 900 years at a low rent) for rents in arrears prior to my purchase, will render this property clear; and afford a complete establishment for all the various manufactures of Iron, as well as for mills, with a convenient farm, &c. &c.

I have seats equally eligible (if not superior) for furnace and forge upon the river Shanandoah in this county, with ore, wood, and water, all convenient and abundant: which may be rented for a long term of years, with rich farming land attached thereto.

FERDINANDO FAIRFAX.
Charles town, Jefferson Co. Virg.
November 16—wtf